ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES

Vol. 6, No. 2, 1982

Published by the ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB

A.P.S. Affiliate No. 88

EDITOR: GEORGE PATAKI, 84-47 KENDRICK PLACE, JAMAICA ESTATES, N.Y. 11432

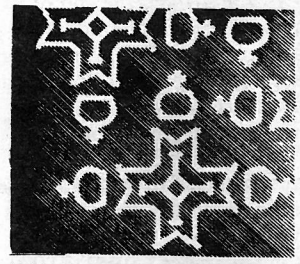
COMMENTS on published articles can be sent directly to the authors. **INQUIRIES** regarding the **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB** or the **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES** can be sent to the editor.

QUARTERLY RESEARCH BULLETIN
$8.00/year payable to
ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB
c/o the **EDITOR**

Additional and back copies of this bulletin (Nos. 3, 4 of 1978, 1, 2, 3, 4 of 1979, 1, 2, 3, 4 of 1980, 1, 2, 3, 4 of 1981, 1, 2 of 1982) can be ordered for $2.00/copy.

Romanian Franchise Labels of the King Michael I Foundation

by George Pataki



Watermark No. XIV

In September, 1947, a set of three labels (vignettes) was issued by the Romanian Government for use on the correspondence of the King Michael I Foundation. The Foundation was accorded a free franking privilege and these labels indicated this.

The Scott catalogue does not list these labels even though they are an official government issue. The Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 describes them on page 427, assigning them numbers G.16-18 but none of these labels are illustrated presumably because one of them shows the portrait of King Michael I.

They were printed on white and grey paper, and they are known both with perforation 13½ and imperforate. Those printed on white paper are gummed while the ones printed on grey paper are ungummed. The printing method is photogravure. The watermark is of type XIV, according to the classification in the R.P.S.C. of 1974.

All three labels have the same text: "ROMANIA/ FUNDATIA REGELE MIHAI I/ SCUTIT DE TAXA POSTALA" (Romania/ King Michael I Foundation/Free From Postal Tax) but they differ in color and illustration.

The first label, RPSC No. G.16, illustrates an open book, a hand holding a flaming torch and a royal crown, and is printed in blue. The perforated variety measures 25.5 x 33.0 mm., from tip of perforation to tip of perforation, and the design measures 22.0 x 30.0 mm.

The second label, G. 17, illustrates the royal crown in the center, to the left of the crown an old man writing, and to the right of the crown, two youngsters reading a book. It is reddish brown. The perforated label measures 42.0 x 26.0 mm., and the design measures 37.25 x 22.25 mm. In the lower right

White paper, perforates

Grey paper, imperforates

Normal overprint

Inverted overprint

corner is written "FABRICA DE TIMBRE" (Stamp Factory).

The third label. G.18, illustrates the portrait of King Michael I looking to the viewer's right, in a round frame. It is violet. The perforated label measures 26.5 x 42.5 mm. and the design measures 22.0 x 37.25 mm. The distance between the designs of two labels in a horizontal row is 4.0 mm. In the lower right corner is written "FABRICA DE TIMBRE" (Stamps Factory).

There are four major types: on white paper perforated, on white paper imperforated, on grey paper perforated and on gray paper impoerforated. 30,000 complete sets were printed of each, with an additional 180,000 perforated labels with the portrait of King Michael I.

The number of labels printed seems to have exceeded by far the legitimate requirements of a royal foundation which had very limited activity, even if the forthcoming abolition of the monarchy and the end of its foundation was not foreseen. The monarchy ended in Romania on December 31, 1947, and it was replaced by a republican form of government.

Furthermore, to issue the same labels, both perforate and impoerforate, on two types of paper (white and grey), seem to indicate that they were made to please the collectors rather than for the real postal necessities of the foundation.

On December 1, 1947, 30,000 of the violet label, G.18, with the portrait of King Michael I, was overprinted with sanserif letters reading "PRIN AVION" (Air Mail). The size of the overprint is 18.5 x 2.25 mm. and it was applied on both the white paper and the grey paper labels, perforate and imperforate. 25,000 of there were labels overprinted in black, and 5,000 in red.

The following errors are known.

1. *Inverted Overprints,* in black and in red, on perforate and imperforate labels, on white and on grey paper.

2. *Vertically Shifted Overprints,* both on the normal and the inverted overprint varieties, so that the overprint instead of being at the lower or upper part of the label, is shifted towards the center. The author has this error on all four varieties: white paper, grey paper, perforate and imperforate.

3. *Horizontally Shifted Overprints* (to the right) from just a touch, to a point where the letter "N" and part of the letter "O" in "AVION" are falling out of the label's design. The author has this in black, on white paper, perforate and imperforate.

4. *Double Overprints.* The author has it only on perforates, on white paper, but probably they are on other varieties too. The upper overprint has a weaker imprint than the lower one.

The many types of these "errors" and especially the relatively large amount of these "errors" suggest that perhaps they were done on purpose. Errors can be made and sometimes they can even slip thrugh the control points, but when they are excessive in both number and varieties, it can be generally assumed that they were purposely created.

To support the assumption that this overprint was not done officially, I present a short note published in Filatelia magazine, June 15, 1948, under the title: "A denial from the General Directorate of P.(osts) T.(elegrah) T.(elephone)" and I quote: "... Inquiring at the proper place, we were told that... the 'prin avion' overprint applied on the stamps Zumstein Nr. XIII (which is the G.18 label with the portrait of King Michael I, ed. note) was not made by the General Directorate of PTT." Nevertheless, Zumstein lists the overprinted variety as Nr. XIII x, and the R.P.S.C. of '74 as G. 19.

In 1948, after the aboliton of the monarchy, the blue label, G.16, was overprinted in its center (with slight shifts up or sideways) with "1948," 6.0 x 2.25 mm. in size, in black and in red. The author has this overprint in both colors but only on white paper, perforate and imperforate, and not on grey paper.

There is the question of the purpose of this overprint, especially during a time of political transition. Why was it necessary for the new republican government to overprint labels issued by the previous monarchial government, especially when these labels were supposed to be used by a defunct royal foundation? The answer is that probably it was not done by the government.

The labels of the King Michael I Foundation were not counterfeited but on postally used covers are extremely rare.

Inverted and vertically shifted overprint

Horizontally shifted overprint

Double overprint

"1948" overprint, perforate and imperforate

Specializing in ROMANIA
Large & diversified stock
WANT LISTS WELCOMED
Other countries available
E. SECHY
P. O. BOX 64462
LOS ANGELES, Cal. 90064

We hold an extensive and varied stock of Romanian stamps and postal history. Write to us today for our free prices illustrated listings. We would be pleased to hear from you. **LONDON & NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL STAMP CO., Ltd.**, P.O. Box 72, Harrow, Middlesex, HAI3LG Great Britain.

WE STILL NEED . . . ROMANIA
Fair prices paid for old letters, better singles, sets, blocks, accumulations and advanced collections.
Write, call or send us for examination with your asking price or our offer.
JOVAN JOVANOVICH,
Tel. (212) 446-1156, Box 243, Gracie Sta., New York, NY 10028.

ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBIULUI (Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the **HOHE RINNE** local posts, is available from the **EDITOR** for $11.00.

PERMISSION IS GRANTED to reproduce any articles published in this bulletin if credit is given to the author and to the **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES.**

ANNOUNCEMENT
OUR MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND THEIR BULLETIN SUBSCRIPTION FEES ON TIME. DUE TO THE INCREASE IN OUR EXPENSES WE CANNOT SEND FOLLOW UP NOTICES.

Major Articles in the Romanian Magazine FILATELIA

No. 9-10/1980

The Enigma of the 3 Bani "Wheat Ear" Postal Stationery — *Dr. Nicolae Tripcovici*
The Spectacular Printing Errors of the Paris-Bucharest Issue — *Silviu Dragomir*

No. 11-12/1980

The First Romanian Philatelic Catalogue - 1890 — *Silviu Dragomir*
Centenary of the "Perle" Issue — *Leonard Paşcanu*
110 Years since the Issuance of the First Romanian Postal Stationery — *Dr. P. Voiculeţ-Lemeny*
Prephilatelic Markings of the Romanian Principalities (1852-1862) — *Dumitru Paşşalega*
More on the "Starostie" Agencies — *Iulian Constantin*

No. 1/1981

The 18 Bani "Sideburns" Stamp — *Dumitru G. Popescu*
A Common TAXA Marking Seldom Found on Stamps — *Győrgy Kovács*
Old, Uncatalogued, Special Cancellations — *Dr. Valentin Neagu*

No. 2/1981

Counterfeits of the Riverboat Cancellations, Part 1 — *C. Spineanu & L. Paşcanu*
Printed Fiscal Stamps on Romanian Postal Stationery — *Gheorghe A. Bighia*

No. 3/1981

Counterfeits of the Riverboat Cancellations, Part 2 — *C. Spineanu & L. Paşcanu*
Uncatalogued Romanian Classic Postal Stationery — *Dr. Nicolae Tripcovici*
Linear Dated Markings used by the Austrian Posts in Bucharest — *Norbert Blistyar*

No. 4/1981

Centenary of the "Taxa de Plată" Stamps — *Dumitru Paşşalega*
Military Postal Cards used during World War I — *Ion Cruceana*
19th Century Engravers and the Origin of some Early Romanian Cancellations — *Mihai R. Popa & Leonard Paşcanu*

No. 5/1981

The Dates of Withdrawal of the Postclassic Stamps, Part 1 — *Dumitru Paşşalega*
More on the 3 Bani "Wheat Ear" Postal Stationery — *Dr. Nicolae Tripcovici*

No. 6/1981

The Dates of Withdrawal of the Postclassic Stamps, Part 2 — *Dumitru Paşşalega*

No. 7/1981

Postal History, Antiquity — *Florea M. Popescu*
How was the "28" Postage Due Marking Used ? — *Silviu Dragomir*

No. 8/1981

A Century of the Romanian Philatelic Press — *Silviu Dragomir*
Postal Stationery Used by the Ministry of Justice, Part 1 — *D.C. Biala & S. Dragomir*

No. 9/1981

Postal Stationery Used by the Ministry of Justice, Part 2 — *D.C. Biala & S. Dragomir*
The 1862 United Principalities Issue with Watermark — *Leonard Paşcanu*

No. 10/1981

Romanian Military Uniforms in Philately — *Col. Gh. Cotolan*
Unknown Types of Money Order Forms — *Leonard Paşcanu*

No. 11/1981

30 Years of U.N. Postage Stamps — *Dr. Eng. George Arghir*

No. 12/1981

Earliest Romanian Philatelic Societies, Associations and Clubs — *Mihail Popovici*

Review

AEROMFILA '81 Exhibition Catalogue

This beautifully presented catalogue, contains not only the regulations (in Romanian and in French) of the "Aeromfila '81" aero-philatelic exhibition held in Bucharest but also has two very well documented and richly illustrated articles: "March 18, 1906 - a Memorable Day in World Aviation" by Alexandru Bartoc, and "Aeromfila from and to ..." by Chiriac Manuşaride (both also in Romanian and French languages.)

The catalogue also contains the customary list of exhibitors and exhibits as well as a comprehensive listing of first flights associated with Romania and a large number of illustrations of commemorative markings used on such flights.

For research purposes I seek Romanian railroad cancellations such as:
POSTA AMBULANTA, AMB. No....
TREN..., GARA..., CFR..., etc.
and/or photocopies of the above.
(expenses reimbursed)
HORST SCHERRER
Glashütter Damm 79
2000 Norderstedt, West Germany.

ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBILULUI (Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the **HOHE RINNE** local posts, is available from the **EDITOR** for $11.00.

An Interesting Marking used by the Bucharest General Post Office

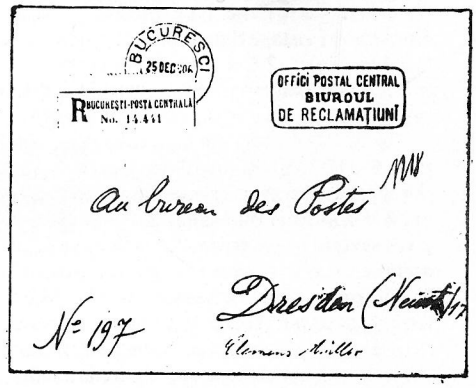
Ladislau Rothman, 29 Metzada Street
Ramat Gan, Israel

I describe here a cover in my collection. This item was sent by the Bucharest General Post Office (as official correspondence) to the Dresden (Germany) post office. It displays a double circle type "Bucuresci" marking, dated "25 DEC 903" (the "903" is inverted by the postal clerc's mistake), a registration lable "R BUCUREŞTI - POSTA CENTRALA No. 14.441" ("R" stands for "Recomandat" - Registered) and a rectangular marking (with rounded corners) measuring 44 x 20 mm., with the three-line text:

OFFICI POSTAL CENTRAL
BIUROUL
DE RECLAMAŢIUNI

(translation: General post office, Complaint Bureau). The word "OFFICI" is spelled in a foreign manner, with a double "F". As the cover contained official correspondence, it was not franked.

The arrival marking, on the cover's reverse, is dated 27.12.03 (Dec. 27, 1903).



Color proof for the 1933 GRATUIT label

George Pataki

In "The Romanian 'Gratuit' (Franchise) Stamp of 1933" (Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 1/1981), we presented a label, printed in green on white paper. Recently, I found a color proof, thus far unrecorded, of the same label in blue, on white, unwatermarked, ungummed paper. If anybody has knowledge of such proofs, in different colors, or perhaps essays (which, so far, are unknown), or any information on the circumstances of their production, we would like to present this information to our readers.

The 1944 Tirgu Mureș Issue

by Peter Néma

Zollstrasse 56, CH-8212
Neuhausen am Rheinfall, Switzerland

During World War II, in October 1944, Romanian postal personnel entered the city of Tirgu Mureș (Marosvásárhely in Hungarian) in Transylvania, bringing Romanian stamps with them, but were ordered back a few days later (F. Konrád, "Romania, Catalog Filatelic," Oradea, 1946 and 1947). A part of the stock of these stamps left behind was overprinted in November 1944 by the local authorities using black capital letters in both languages (Hungarian and Romanian):

Erdély
Transilvania

Eight stamps were overprinted viz., six regular stamps (Scott ##537, 538, 543, 546, 550 and 551) and two postal tax stamps (Scott ## RA 26-27), both types bearing the portrait of King Michael. The paper is white and the watermark is of the type presented in the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974:

1 Leu violet, 2 Lei orange, 5 Lei rosa carmine, 10 Lei magenta, 16 Lei dark blue, 20 Lei brown, 1 Lew lilac rosa, and 2 Lei brown.

The R.P.S.C. of 1974 lists these stamps on page 511 (PTM 1-8), but illustrates them with the wrong overprint (presenting the one applied in Odorhei on Hungarian stamps) and gives several other erroneous points of information.

The earliest use of these stamps known to me is November 20, 1944; even the illustrated item (Fig. 1) was cancelled on request. Besides the above listed eight stamps there are, allegedly, two more (50 Bani and 50 Lei) with the same overprint and some stamps with the overprinted word TRANSILVANIA on the first line and ERDÉLY on the second line.

Published data on the Tirgu Mures issue is very limited and somewhat contradictory. According to F. Konrád, 450 sets were overprinted. G. Sipos in "Eszak-erdelyi belyegek" (published in Filateliai Szemle, Budapest, 1976/X, p. 17) claims that more stamps, e.g. of the 2 Lei denomination were made. F. Konrád states, that first 200 sets were overprinted in a manner such that the overprint (the word ERDÉLY) covered King Michael's head, but after six days of use another 250 sets were overprinted leaving the monarch's head clear. The alleged reason is that the Romanian postal service operating in Southern Transilvania, refused to handle items franked with stamps having the king's portrait disfigured. The cover illustrated on Fig. 2 does not support the above allegation; it was posted on November 23, 1944, in MAROSVÁSÁRHELY 1/TG.-MUREȘ 1 (transit through SIGHIȘOARA on November 25, 1944 and through ODORHEI on November 28, 1944) and soon after should

figure 2

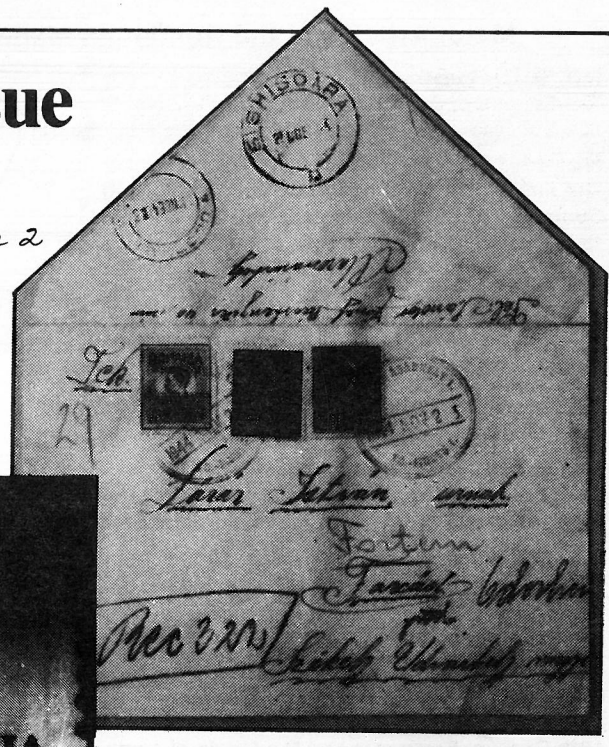


figure 4

figure 3

figure 1

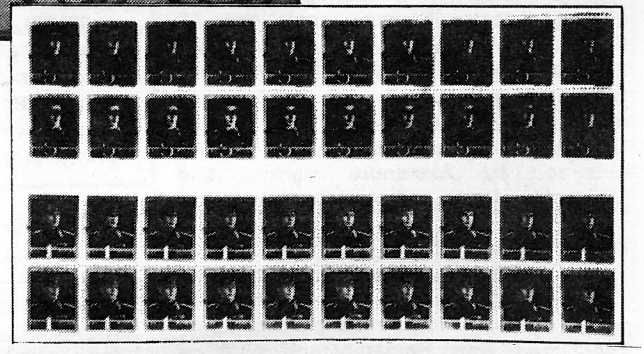


figure 5

have arrived at its destination: Forţeni. The king's head on these stamps is covered by the overprint; nevertheless, Sighişoara did not refuse it.

Several overprint errors are known. Supposedly because of a limited supply of capital A-s, some stamps have overprints with two or three smaller A-s than the rest of the letters (Fig. 3) in the word TRANSILVANIA, but there are some real printing errors, too. According to F. Konrád and G. Sipos, the following deviations in the overprint are known:

TRANSILAANIA (A instead of V) positions 25 and 75; TSANILVANIA (S instead of R) position 35; TRANSILYANIA (Y instead of V) positin 42; TRANSILVANIA (last two A-s small) positions 4, 5, 39, 59, 69, 79 and 89; and TRANSILVANIA (all three A-s small) positions 60, 70, 80 and 90.

I have found one more error: TRANSILVNNIA (N instead of the second A, Fig. 4). Its place might be one or more of the positions 1, 10, 20, 22, 23, 29, 30, 40, 83-86 and 91-96 about which there is no information up to now, as there is no knowledge of a complete sheet of any stamp of the Tirgu Mureş issue and, because of the small number of the overprinted sets, it is doubtful if one exists. I only have information on fragments of sheets; to reconstruct the overprints on an entire sheet, it would be necessary to examine several blocks, strips and marginal copies and to make further investigations.

The overprints of the Tirgu Mureş stamps were counterfeited several times. Some of the overprints have been so badly done that it is easy to recognize them. On the other hand, there are some copies which look very good. For example the fragments presented in Fig. 5 are so good that the only clue to their counterfeited status is that blocks of 20 without any erroneous overprint do not fit into the sheet of 100 mentioned by F. Konrád and G. Sipos. However, before definitely classifying these items as counterfeits, it is necessary to clarify whether all sheets of the printings contain the erroneous overprints or not.

Some of the excellent counterfeits, allegedly made with the original typeset, can be recognized because the stamps used by the counterfeiters for the overprinting have different color shades, perforations and adhesive structures to those which can be found on postally used items (and therefore are supposedly the originals).

To establish whether a given stamp is genuine, using the Szalay method ("Bogenplatz-Feststellung," Donaupost, Bratislava, 1927/XII, pp. 141-145), also requires an original or reconstructed full sheet of stamps. This might be very difficult because the number of stamps overprinted is small and the overprint consists only of 18 letters, most of them intact, without any characteristic breaks or distortions.

There are questions regarding the use of this issue. Apart from the cover presented in

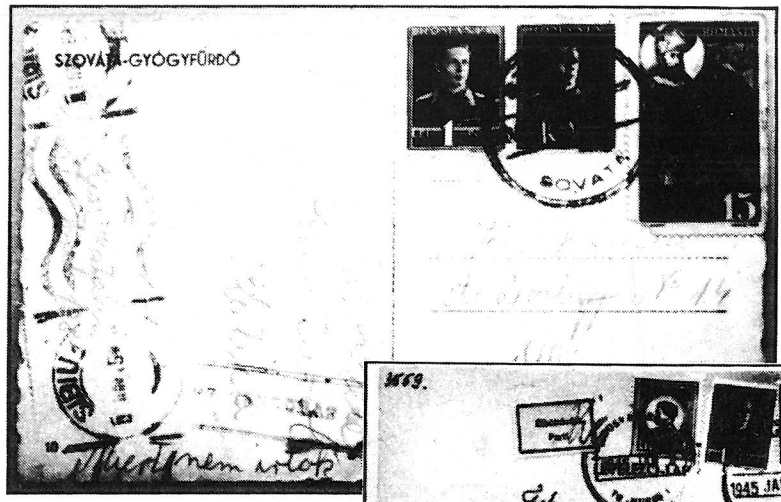


figure 7

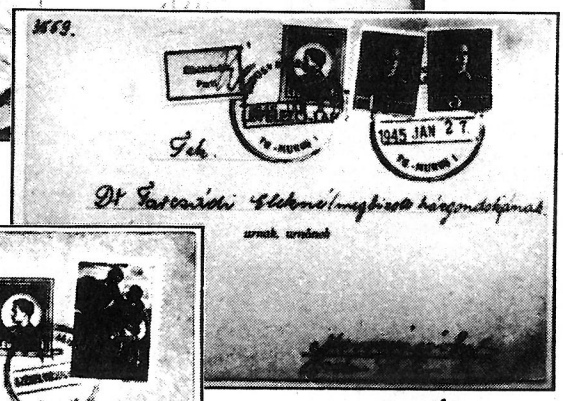


figure 6

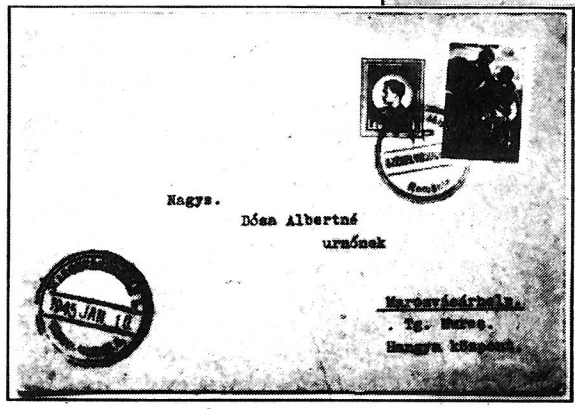


figure 8

Fig. 2, I have seen only five other covers, all registered and for local use, bearing the "MAROSVÁSÁRHELY 1/TG.-MUREŞ 1" cancel mark. Three of them have the whole set of stamps and two franked with the supposedly correct 38 Lei stamps. There is no contradiction between the registration numbers and the dates of cancelmarks (Nov. 22 and 23). Furthermore, one of the letters also has a registration receipt. I have not yet been able to establish up to when these overprinted stamps were used, but I know that on Dec. 13, 1944 and later (Jan. 27, 1945, Fig. 6) the Tirgu Mureş 1 post office already used stamps with the portrait of King Michael without overprint. The latest use of the "MAROSVÁSÁRHELY 1/TG.-MUREŞ 1" postal marking known to me is April 24, 1945. Other known similar bilingual postal markings in the Tirgu Mureş region and their dates of use are:

TEKE/TEACA July 24, 1945; SZOVÁTA/SOVATA June 1, 1945 (Fig. 7) and Aug. 27, 1945; NYÁRÁDSZEREDA/M. NIRAJULUI July 23, 1945 and Sept. 6, 1945.

Finally, one more question still awaits an answer. The post card shown in Fig. 8, mailed from Szekelyudvarhely, bears a "MAROSVÁSÁRHELY 1/TARGU MUREŞ 1" arrival postal mark dated Jan. 10, 1945. I have also seen an identical marking on a cover with the same date, also mailed from Székelyudvarhely. This would indicate that in 1945, in Tirgu Mureş, two different types of postal markings were in use, one with Romanian name of the city abbreviated "TG.-MUREŞ" for cancelling the letters at departure and another, spelled "TARGU-MUREŞ" as arrival cancelmark. Unfortunately, two other letters sent to Tirgu Mureş do not support this presumption. One of them was sent from Baia Mare (NAGYBÁNYA), went through CLUJ on March 14, 1945 and arrived at Tirgu Mureş on March 18, 1945. The other was mailed from Oradea 3 (NAGYVÁRAD 3) on March 10, 1945, went through CLUJ and arrived at Tirgu Mures but the arrival date was not struck. Both of these covers bear the "MAROSVÁSÁRHELY 1/TG.-MUREŞ 1" marking in the abbreviated form as an arrival postmark. Therefore, there was no special arrival postmark in Tirgu Mureş during the whole period of the local post service, but it is possible that one was used for a short time in January, 1945. On the other hand, it is also imaginable that the post card in Fig. 8 is a bogus.

The 1944-45 postal history of the city and region of Tirgu Mureş requires more data to complete the picture. I would appreciate any information regarding this issue and I am interested in all kinds of related philatelic material.

The Metamorphosis of a Postal Marking

MIRCEA TELEGUȚ, Bul. Eroilor No. 22, apt. 13, 1900 Timișoara, Romania

As many other localities in the Banat region, the village of Tirol, in Caraș-Severin county, was founded through colonizaton by the Habsburg (Austrian) Empire. Banat had been liberated from Turkish suzerainty and annexed to Austria in 1718. This community was settled from 1809 to 1812, in three stages by groups of farmers from the Austrian province of Tyrol, who became "personnae non grata" in Austria as a result of their activities during the 1809 war to liberate Tyrol. Several groups of insurgents, with their families, were "exiled" to the Empire's periphery - Banat - because they were distrusted by the authorities. Their journey began in Tyrol, then in Vienna they were loaded on ships which took them via the Danube River, through the 100 km. long Francis Canal (Franzen Kanal) which connects with the Tisza River, and finally through the Bega Canal to the city of Timișoara (Temesvár in Hungarian).

After refusing several places because those areas were swampy and caused marsh fever, the settlers chose to locate themselves on the present site of Tirol, a zone with hills and forests. It is situated amongst perviously existing Romanian localities: Fizeș, Doclin and Surduc, and is near Bocșa. It was first known by several names: Tiroler-Dorf, Tiroler-Treue, Neu Tirol or Tyrolia. On Sept. 16, 1812, by decision of a Vienese court, it was henceforth to be named Königsnade as a symbol of gratitude to Emperor Francis I (1768-1835) who had been named the founder and the patron of the "Königsnade Colony".

The village grew rapidly as the 87 original families were joined by other Tyrolians from the Oravița mining area. On the surrounding hills, large vineyards were cultivated, the vine produced there being renowned to this day. The settlement's population recently declined, while in 1869 it held 1868 inhabitan, today it has only about 1,200.

Its first post office was established on Nov. 1, 1863 (According to Ed. Mueller's "Handbook of Austrian and Lombardy-Venetia Cancellations", 1961 edition). Its first postal marking (Fig. 1) was the Austrian type, 23 mm. diameter single circle, inscribed "KÖNIGSNAD".

Fig. 1

This marking was used until 1888, at which time the Hungarian Ministry of Interior "Magyarized" names of localities with "foreign" sounding names to Hungarian ones, with Königsnad becoming Királykegye, the exact translation of the German version. On Jan 18, 1889, postal service of Banat (and of other regions) passed on to the Hungarian administration (According to "A Magyar Béljegek Monográfiája", Vol. VI, by Kostyán Ákos) and a new canceller came into use. The marking is a single circle, 26mm. in diameter, reading "KIRALYKEGYE". It bears the date in three lines: year (last three digits)/month/day. (Note: on fig. 2 the month is missing).

Fig. 2

The third type of canceller, used from 1913 on, and measuring 25 mm. in diameter, is the typical Hungarian one for that period, with two inner shaded spandrels (with the Hungarian crown in the upper spandrel) and a bridge between them with the date on one line: day, month and year (last three digits). A control number is surrounded by two small arabesque decorations on the cancellation's bottom and its top reads "KIRALY-KEGYE" (Fig. 3). It was used officially until May 18, 1921, but unofficially as late as 1923 because the Romanian authorities could not expeditiously supply thousands of new cancellors for areas it acquired as a result of WW I, especially for the small, rural post offices. While the Hungarian type cancellers remained in use bearing Hungarian names, the dates used immediately following the unification of Banat with Romania, accord with the Romanian order: day, month and year, rather than the Hungarian: year, month and day.

Fig. 3

In May 1923, the first Romanian canceller (Fig. 4) replaced the Hungarian one. It reads: "CÖNIGSNAD", a resurrection for the old German name, but now spelled with a "C" instead of a "K". A double circle type, its diameters measure 31 and 19 mm.

Fig. 4

After a short time, a new canceller was put in use (Fig. 5). Also a double circle type,

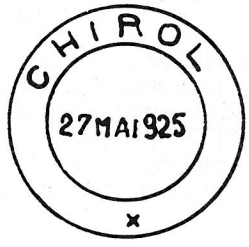


Fig. 5

with 32 and 21 mm. diameters, the name it bears is "CHIROL", the village's first name, Tirol, written as it would be pronounced in Banat's dialect.

In 1927, the spelling of name was again changed, this time back to Tirol. Thus a new canceller (Fig. 6) replaced the previous one. It is also a double circle with 33 and 22 mm. diameters and shows the text: "TIROL" at top and "JUD. CARAS" (Caras county) at bottome.

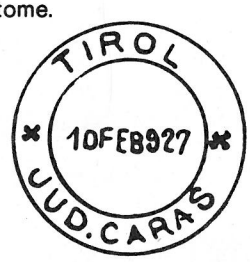


Fig. 6

The name of Tirol has managed to stick. Postal markings, however, have gone through several further changes. We illustrate here one used in 1964 (Fig. 7). Likewise, a double circle, with 25 and 15 mm. diameters, it displays the text "TIROL" at top and "REG. BANAT" (Banat region) at bottom, and a script control letter ("a" in this case).

Fig. 7

After the administrative reform of 1968, a similar canceller was used (Fig. 8) but on this the bottom once again reads "JUD.CARAS" instead of Reg. Banat.

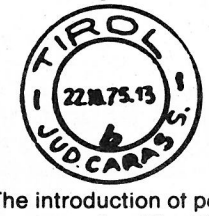


Fig. 8

The introduction of postal codes caused a new canceller (Fig. 9), still in use today, showing the code number, to replace the previous one.

Fig. 9

SPECIALIST COLLECTOR seeks stamps, covers, and/or information regarding the Ninth army overprints of the WW I German army occupation.

HAROLD STRONG, P.O. Box 15027, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815.

1862 United Principalities Issue with Letter Watermarks

Leonard Pașcanu, Aleea Politehnicii No. 6, bl. 3, sc. 2, et. 4, apt. 20, 77213 Bucharest, Romania

On June 26, 1862, in compliance with order no. 1946/1057 and circular no. 417 of the General Directorate of Posts, the United Principalities stamps, in denomination of 3, 6 and 30 Parale, were put on sale at the Bucharest post office. After another few days they were also distributed to and available at other Romanian post offices.

According to the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974, the following types of paper were used in printing this issue: white or slightly yellowish or bluish tinted ordinary paper (x), as well as horizontally laid paper (y). These stamps also exist on a wove paper which clearly displays its mesh. The paper's thickness varies from very thin to thin. The numerous paper types suggest that lots of paper obtained from various sources were used. Many researchers, influenced by the fact that the first two issues of "Moldavia" were printed on English paper, manufactured by "BATH-SOMERSET", believed that the stamps of the 1862 United Principalities issue had also been printed on the same type of paper.

- 30 Par. with a watermark "L". The stamp is obliterated by a Zimnicea marking with star, applied in black, and dated 15/5.
- 30 Par. with a watermark "C", cancelled by a greenish blue Oltenita marking with a star, and dated 1/2.
- 3 Par. lemon yellow, unused, with a watermark of a "C".

Later the following three items were reported:

- 30 Par. (in the Fritz Heimbüchler collection) with watermark "L" followed by an elongated circle, cancelled by a Tirgovistea marking with a star, dated 4/7. This stamp has been expertized by Franz Pfeninger of West Germany.
- 30 Par. (author's collection) with watermark "&" obliterated by a black Zimnicea postmark with star, dated 5/5.
- 30 Par. in a private collection in Romania, watermarked with a fragment of "J" preceded by an elongated circle, cancelled by a black Zimnicea postmark with star, the date being illegible.

Tulbendjian's article illustrated the "L" and "C", stating that their height is 11.5 mm., and their width is 5.5 mm. (Fig. 1). Not having known the composition of the entire watermark, Tulbendjian, however, presented it incompletely and in the wrong sequence.

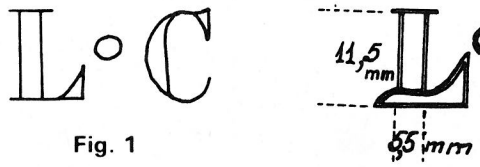


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

I have discovered this entire watermark on a page of a letter, dated April 13, 1866 and sent from Zimnicea to Bucharest. On this the following letters can be seen: "L°J D L & C°". These are probably the initials of the manufacturer. It is shown in actual size in fig. 2 and contains all the letters thus far found on stamps of the 1862 United Principalities issue. The measurements of the "L" and "C" (11.5 x 5.5 mm.) coincide with those reported by Tulbendjian. I have superimposed the watermarks on the two stamps I have examined ("J" and "&") on the one found on the letter and they matched perfectly. My conclusion is that for printing the 1862 United Principalities stamps, paper supplied by a factory or company having the initials "L J D L & C" was also used. Probably this watermark should appear only on the sheet margin and thus stamps were rarely printed on them.

This type of paper, with the above described watermark, was often used in that period. I have in my collection three more letters with watermarks consisting of the same letters, though sometimes in different sizes (for example: 13.0 x 5.0 mm.).

Considering the extremely low number of stamps known exhibiting this watermark, these are great rarities. They can be compared with the used 3 Par. of the same issue, on laid paper.

We hope that after this article is published, collectors will examine their United Principalities stamps, and, perhaps, some of them will be pleasantly surprised to find similar items and report them in the philatelic press.

This variety should be properly listed in future catalogue editions.

The late Onnig Tulbendjian's reply, given to the "Romania" study group of the Philatelist's Association of the Federal Republic of Germany and published in the Romanian magazine Filatelia (No. 9/1970) states: "While they are very rare, 1862 United Principalities stamps may display a watermark of letter fragments". He mentioned knowledge of the following items's existence:

Romanian Postage Stamp Exhibition in Timișoara - 1923

Mircea Teleguț, Bul. Eroilor No. 22, apt. 13, 1900 Timișoara, Romania

The "Philatelic Club of Timișoara", founded immediately after the unification of Banat, Transylvania and Crișana with Romania, had the largest membership in the country. During September 23-25, 1923, several philatelic activities took place in the city of Timișoara:

- A Romanian philatelic congress,
- A philatelic exhibition with a junior exhibition section,
- A philatelic symposium,
- A stamp auction.

These activities were the first public manifestations of the philatelists of Timișoara. The bilingual (Romanian and German) magazine of the "Philatelic Club of Timișoara" (Der Banater Philatelist) published in its issue no. 9 (September) of 1923, the following announcement: "The philatelic club wil be organizing a philatelic exhibition in the stock exchange hall of the Lloyd company in Timișoara, to be held September 23-25, 1923. The preparations

are in way and exhibits containing beautiful and rich material, have arrived. Non-members of the club may be obtained from Dr. Desiderius Ürmenyi, the organizing committee's secretary".

The exhibition poster, shown below, was designed by Desideriu Sinkowich, a renowned painter and high school art teacher of Timişoara. Sinkowich also designed the low denomination banknotes issued by the municipality of Timişoara in 1919 and the first municipal-fiscal stamps issued in 1920 by the same authority. The inscription on the poster, in keeping with the customs of that time, was in three languages: Romanian, Hungarian and German, and bore the following text: "Prima Expoziţia Romana de Mărci Poştale (first Romanian postage stamp exhibition), Elsŏ

Román Bélyegkiállitás, Erste Rumänische Briefmarken Ausstellung, Lloyd Palais". On the left, on an imaginary stamp, is Mercury, the God of commerce, carrying the horn of plenty from which postage stamps are pouring out. On the bottom of the "stamp" in lieu of a denomination is the numeral "1", signifying that this is the first philatelic exhibition. To make the poster even more expressive, it also shows a postmark reading "TIMIŞOARA-SEPTEMVRIE 23-25".

The intense activity of the philatelists of Timisoara during this period is also reflected in the use by the post office of a temporary postmark, "TIMIŞOARA TARG DE MOSTRE 25 SEP 23". (Timişoara Sample Fair Sept. 25, 1923). The marking, 28 mm. in diameter, was the first such temporary marking to be used in Timişoara after the unification.

The Recto-Verso Stamps of the United Principalities 1864 Issue

Vladimir Bobeica, Str. V. Braniste No. 56, 74136 Bucharest, Romania.

The recto-verso (printed-on-both-sides) items (singles, pairs, blocks) of the second issue of the United Principalities (1864) are not only scarce and expensive, but also of great interest to specialized collectors. Thus, ferreting out total counterfeits (both sides are counterfeit) or partial counterfeits (original printing on one side but counterfeit on the other) is quite important.

Expertization of these items is made simpler due to the printing method used for this issue, which yields a sheet on which each stamp position differs slightly from all others on the sheet. In 1862, the three denominations of the first United Principalities issue were each individually printed, using a single cliche for each value, repeated 32 times to make up each sheet. However, in 1864, the second United Principalities issue was printed in sheets of 40 stamps, using 40 distinct cliches nailed to a wooden board. For speed and economy, no new design was used; rather the three cliches of the 1862 issue (3, 6 and 30 parale) were each repreduced by the galvanoplastic process 40 times and then each of the 40 "copies" was nailed through its upper left and lower right side to a common printing plate. See Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 1/1982, page 15, fig. 2, for such a sheet of the 30 parale stamp. This galvanoplastic reproduction had two consequences: a) all 40 stamps of a sheet have common general characteristics due to their common origin; and b) in the process of creating 40 new cliches (for each denomination), tiny deformations, breaks, thickenings, spots and dots appeared on EVERY one, allowing determination of the exact position on the sheet of every stamp.

Fig. 1 shows some of the characteristics of the 30 parale stamp, common to both the 1862 and all stamps of the 1864 issue.

Fig. 2 shows the characteristics peculiar to one 30 parale 1864 stamp, namely position I-4 (I-st vertical column, 4th horizontal row). It is on such features peculiar to one position that we rely on for expertization.

The recto-verso items were, supposedly by error, printed on both sides of the paper. It can be imagined that a sheet already printed on one side, got in the printing press a second time, in such a manner that it was printed on its reverse. For such a second printing, the paper, now face down, could have been introduced in only two positions: either with the position I-1 at the upper right, or at the lower left. In the first case, the back

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

AUTHENTIC RECTO-VERSO CLICHE POSITIONS	
FRONT	BACK
I-1	VIII-1 or I-5
I-2	VIII-2 or I-4
I-3	VIII-3 or I-3
I-4	VIII-4 or I-2
I-5	VIII-5 or I-1
II-1	VII-1 or II-5
II-2	VII-2 or II-4
II-3	VII-3 or II-3
II-4	VII-4 or II-2
II-5	VII-5 or II-1
III-1	VI-1 or III-5
III-2	VI-2 or III-4
III-3	VI-3 or III-3
III-4	VI-4 or III-2
III-5	VI-5 or III-1
IV-1	V-1 or IV-5
IV-2	V-2 or IV-4
IV-3	V-3 or IV-3
IV-4	V-4 or IV-2
IV-5	V-5 or IV-1
V-1	IV-1 or V-5
V-2	IV-2 or V-4
V-3	IV-3 or V-3
V-4	IV-4 or V-2
V-5	IV-5 or V-1
VI-1	III-1 or VI-5
VI-2	III-2 or VI-4
VI-3	III-3 or VI-3
VI-4	III-4 or VI-2
VI-5	III-5 or VI-1
VII-1	II-1 or VII-5
VII-2	II-2 or VII-4
VII-3	II-3 or VII-3
VII-4	II-4 or VII-2
VII-5	II-5 or VII-1
VIII-1	I-1 or VIII-5
VIII-2	I-2 or VIII-4
VIII-3	I-3 or VIII-3
VIII-4	I-4 or VIII-2
VIII-5	I-5 or VIII-1

of an authentic recto-verso position I-1 stamp, for example, only an authentic VIII-1 stamp would be printed; in the second case, on the back of the same I-1 stamp we could only find an authentic position I-5 stamp printed. The only other possibility is the very improbable one that the printer intentionally introduced an already printed sheet of paper, not in one of these two normal positions but rather in another, odd position; but then he could not claim that this was done in error. We must discard this highly unlikely premise.

The first criterion in establishing authenticity of these recto-verso items is checking that the sheet position of the stamp printed on one side of the paper checks with one of the two necessarily corresponding positions of the other side. The list below of "authentic recto-verso cliche arrangements" should be of help. In cases of multiples, this test has to be extended to all the stamps. It is not mandatory to find a stamp printed exactly on the back of another stamp; on the contrary, in most cases a shift between the two printings can be observed. Unfortunately, the limited space of such a magazine article does not allow us to present 120 drawings needed to represent all 40 positions for the the originals. For example, on the reverse side of the space between the positions I-2 and I-3, should appear either the characteristic space between VIII-2 and VIII-3, or that between I-3 and I-4. *Fig. 3* shows an authentic sheet of the 6 parale, while *Fig. 4* illustrates a counterfeit sheet of the same stamp.

An important step in examining a recto-verso item is the determination of the authenticity of the printing on each side of the paper. This method is difficult in cases of partial counterfeits (authentic on one side, fake on the other) because often the fake printing was purposely done light, to make such examination more difficult. This type of counterfeit is more frequent on the 6 and 30 parale values which are cheaper than the 3 parale. In case of discovery, the financial loss to the forger would be much smaller than if he had tempered with an expensive 3 three denominations. We can present here only the method of expertization, based on the above described principle.

Another criterion used in expertization of multiples in comparing the sizes and shapes of the blank spaces between the stamps. These elements vary slightly from one stamp to another. Counterfeits (whether multiples or full sheets) do not have these identical to parale stamp, whether single, multiple or sheet.

Examination of these items under ultra-violet light or infra-red rays is not conclusive. The paper being thin (pelure) and translucent, the printings of the two sides will appear superimposed one upon the other, making difficult the perception of the tiny but significant characteristics of each. Of course, the printing on both sides of the paper must show the same kind of fluorescence under ultra-violet lamp, even if one is stronger than the other. Otherwise it can be concluded that the two printings are produced in different areas, with diverse types of printing ink, which is the case with partial counterfeits. Total counterfeits could be misleading, as with both sides printed at the same time and with the same type of ink, they will show the same kind of fluorescence. Comparing the fluorescence of a doubtful item with that of a stamp known to be authentic could be conclusive.

Thus, the best method of expertization remains comparison of the characteristics using the detailed, blown-up drawings of all 40 positions and photographs of the sheets.

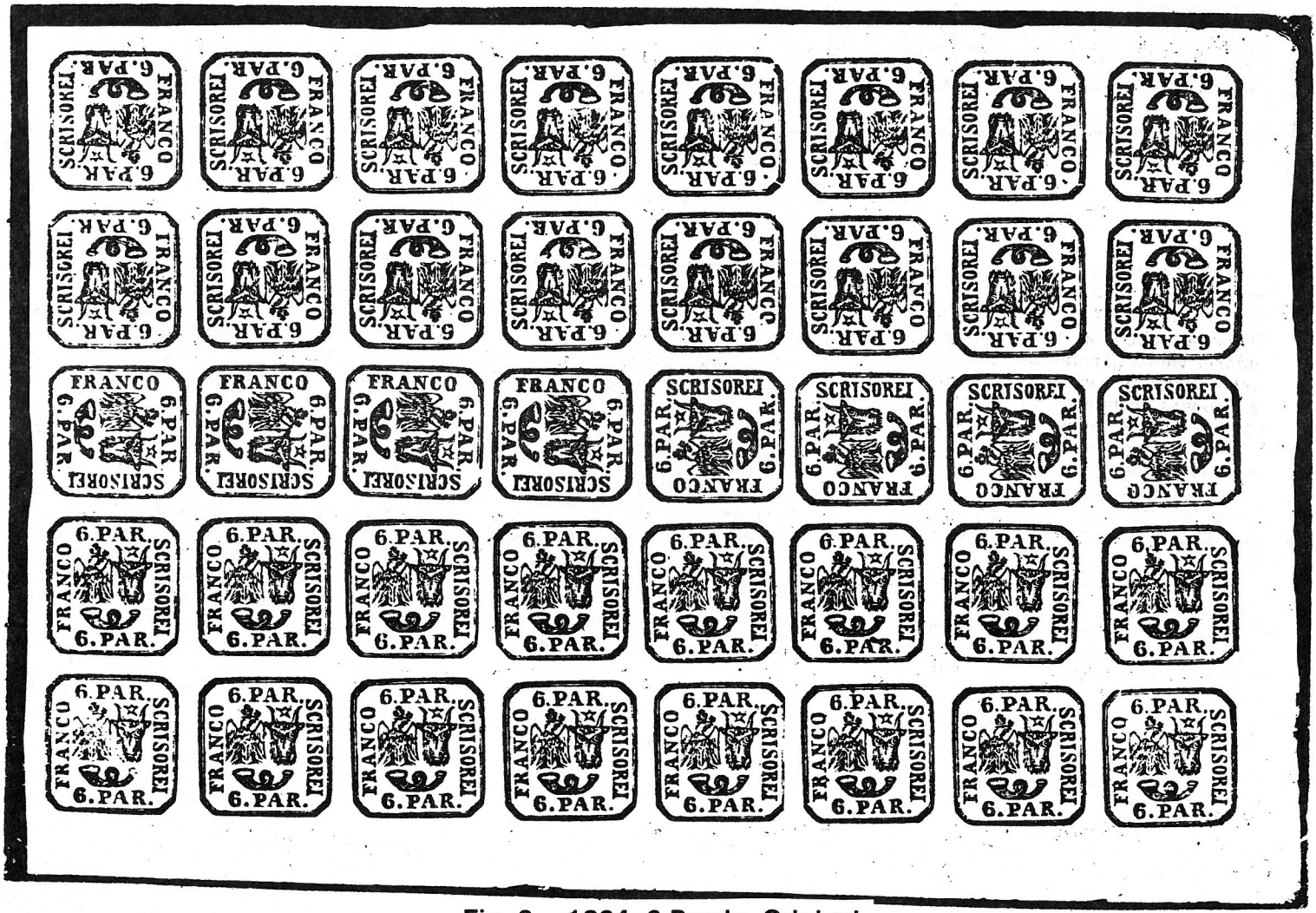


Fig. 3 1864, 6 Parale, Original

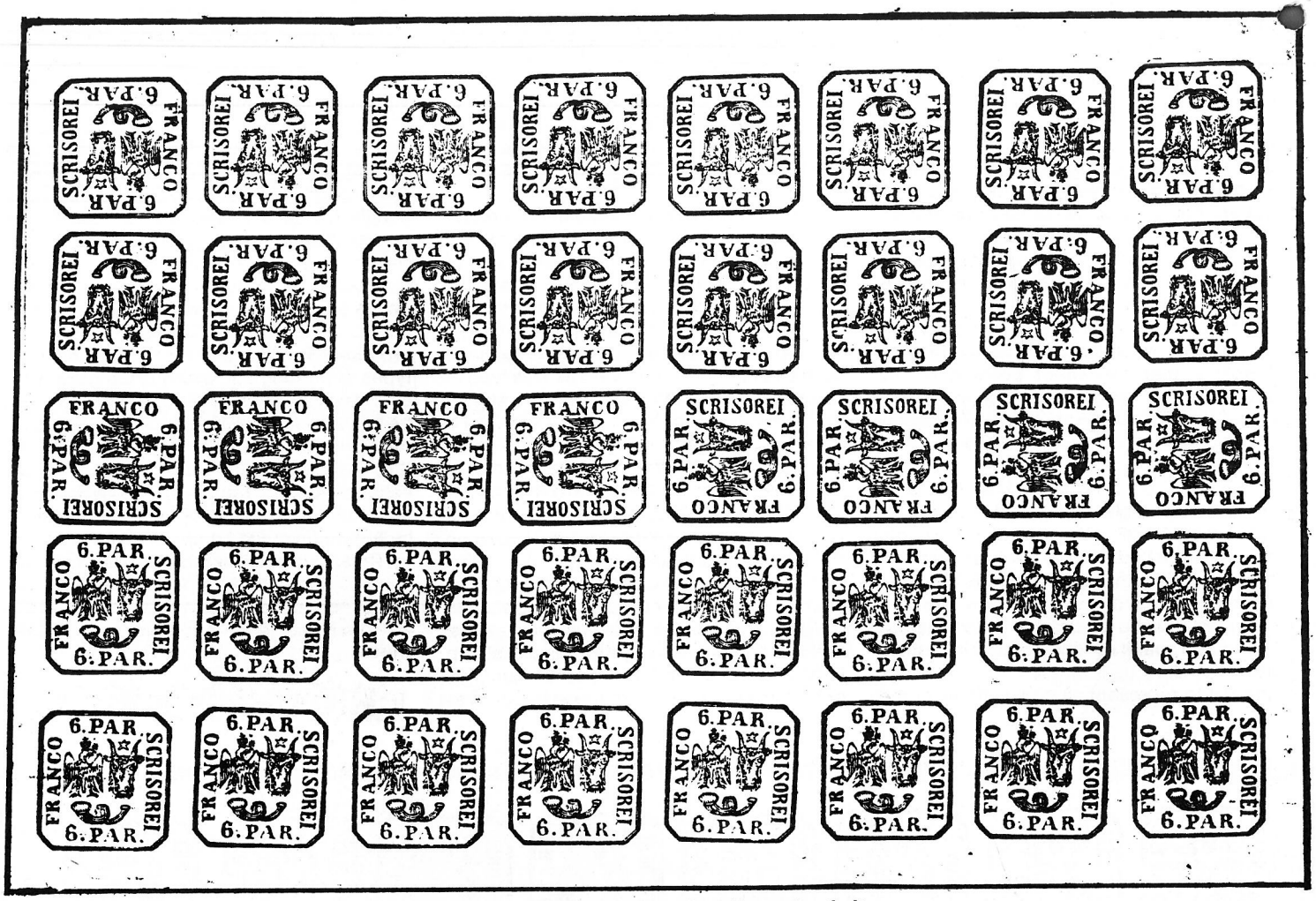


Fig. 4 1864, 6 Parale, Counterfeit

A Complaint Form used in 1866

LADISLAU ROTHMAN, 29 Metzada Street, Ramat Gan, Israel

The complaint form illustrated here is a scarce postal document, from Marco Martin's (of Tel Aviv, Israel) collection. It measures about 21 x 35.5 cm. and was franked with a 20 parale stamp of the "Carol with Sideburns" issue, Scott #32a. This stamp was obliterated by a "BUCURESCI" double circle, large arabesque postmark.

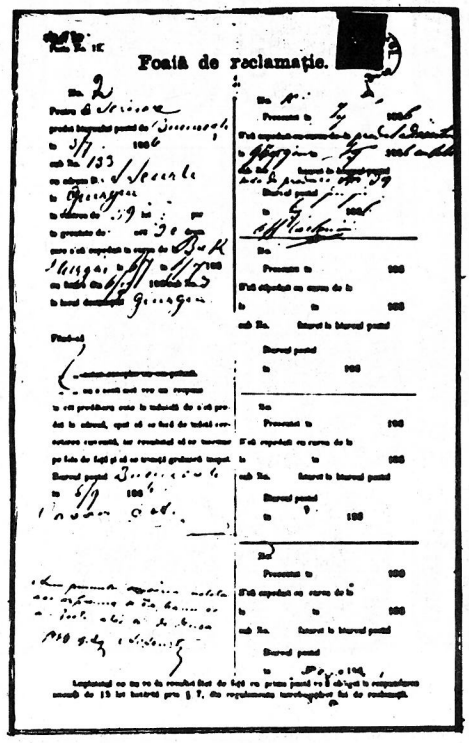
The complaint concerns registered letter no. 133, mailed on July 5, 1866 from Bucharest to Giurgiu, with a declared value of 59 lei. The letter and contents were forwarded on July 6, 1866 under invoice no. 3.

Because, according to the complaint form, the sender did not receive any answer from the addressee, doubt was raised about delivery. This required making an inquiry, the results to be noted on this same form, which was then to be mailed back speedly.

On September 5, 1866, the cashier of the Bucharest post office filled out the left side of this complaint form, with the above information, and mailed it to the Giurgiu post office.

The form's upper right portion, dated Sept. 6, 1866, was filled out by a Giurgiu clerk stating the results of his investigation: that the shipment was received and delivered to the addressee on July 7, 1866.

The form's lower left side shows a handwritten certification dated "1866. 25 Aug.", by the recipient, attesting to the receipt of the letter and money.



On the reverse lower right side, once again information regarding the complaint is found, this filled out by the Bucharest post office before mailing. A double circle "GIURGIU" postmark with large arabesque, dated 6/9 (Sept. 6), shows when the complaint form was mailed back. The form was probably mailed folded twice, with this part facing outside thus displaying addresses for both directions.

The apparent discrepency between the recipient's manuscript date (1866, 25 Aug.), and that on the Giurgiu postmark (6/9, which is Sept. 6) results from the population still using the old Julian calendar, while the post office was utilizing the new Gregorian calendar, the difference being 11 days.

The bottom of the form has an interesting paragraph stating that if the (postal) employee does not send results by the first (return) mail, he will be penalized 15 lei.

Two different spellings of the heading, "Foaia de reclamaţie" on the abverse and "FOAIE DE RECLAMATIE" on the reverse appear on the very same form.

This 116 year old postal document shows that the reliability and swiftness of the Romanian postal system was then superior to its present standards.

Local Issues of Northern Transylvania 1944-1945

Reprinted from THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST, November 1981

by Francis Konrád

In the philatelic context, Transylvania (in Romanian, Transilvania; in Hungarian, Erdély, with an acute accent on the second "e") is known as the territory ceded by Hungary to Romania in 1919. The area coincides roughly with the once independent historical Principality of Transsylvania (A.D. 1526-1690).

In September 1940, Adolf Hitler's "Vienna Dictate" forced Romania to cede its northern half back to Hungary (see Figure 1). After August 23, 1944, when Romania turned away from Nazi Germany, the Soviet and the Romanian armies began to drive out the Germans and Hungarians. Hungarian rule thus ended there in practice in October 1944, and ended legally by virtue of an armistice January 20, 1945, but the Romanians were not to take over administration before April 9, 1945. In the interval, lasting almost half a year, non-military activities such as postal service were left to be resumed and run by local people. This situation gave birth to the little-known local postal stamp issues that form the object of this study.

N.B.: Geographical names are listed in Romanian, and the Hungarian version is given in parentheses. The stamps are listed chronologically as they were issued.

1. The Târgu-Mureş (Marosvásárhely) issue of November 1944: Romanian stamps bearing the effigy of King Michael (Scott Nos. 507-515 and RA26-27), overprinted in black: "ERDÉLY/TRANSILVANIA."

	Denomination	Color
(Postal stamps)		
1.	1-leu	purple
2.	2-leu	red orange
3.	5-leu	rose pink
4.	10-leu	deep magenta
5.	16-leu	Prussian blue
6.	20-leu	brown
(Fiscal-postal stamps)		
7.	1-leu	rose
8.	2-leu	light brown

Figure 1.

A few copies of the 50-leu black also are known to exist (proofs?).

The stamps were used mostly on registered mail. The cancellation was made in purple ink, by improvised bilingual rubber stamps. There seem to have been at least two of them: one for the main Post Office No. 1 and another for a secondary office. The date was set in by a separate linear rubber stamp (Figure 2).

Figure 2.

The overprint, executed by a local printer in typography, shows a number of errors and irregularities on the 10 x 10 stamp sheets:

TRANSILAANIA (A instead of V) stamp nos. 25 and 27

TSANSILVANIA (S instead of R) stamp no. 35

TRANSILYANIA (Y instead of V) stamp no. 42

TRANSILVANIA (all three "a's" are capitals in small type) stamp nos. 60, 70, 80, and 90

TRANSILVANIA (last two "a's" small capitals) stamp nos. 4, 5, 39, 59, 69, 79, and 89

Romanian postal people entered the City of Târgu-Mureş (Marosvásárhely) shortly after liberation in October 1944, bringing Romanian stamps with them, but were ordered back a few days later. The stamps then were seized by the local authority and overprinted in both Hungarian and Romanian.

2. The Sighet (Máramarossziget) issue of December 1944: Hungarian stamps of 1943-1944 overprinted in black with a circular handstamp; shown in Figure 3. The handstamp was carved in wood by a local artist and applied individually on each stamp, using the black ink normally reserved for canceling. It shows a characteristic fracture (crack) in the M of 'ROMANA' (not shown in Figure 3).

Figure 3.

The 1-, 4-, and 50-fillér stamps may not have been officially issued, although I saw and examined some about 1956, and found the overprints to be genuine. If those were unauthorized, as they now seem to have been, they nevertheless had been struck with the original handstamp allegedly destroyed shortly after use.

Francis Konrád, formerly of Romania, in the late 1940's was the author and editor of the first comprehensive catalogue of the stamps of that country. About 1957, when the impending centenary of the first Moldavian stamp started a surge of related philatelic activity, Mr. Konrád was the prime collaborator in the first catalogue to be published by the state-owned philatelic organization of the Republic of Romania. Censorship difficulties postponed publication of it until 1959. Mr. Konrád has been a Canadian resident since 1964.

	Denomination	Color	Scott Number	Number Issued
1	1-fillér	greenish black	601	100
2.	4-fillér	brown	604	100
3.	8-fillér	dark olive green	607	150
4.	10-fillér	light brown	608	250
5.	12-fillér	deep blue green	609	250
6.	18-fillér	dark gray	610	100
7.	20-fillér	chestnut brown	611	250
8.	30-fillér	deep carmine	620	230
9.	50-fillér	blue	614	100
10.	1-pengő	green	616	250

Also, ten of each of Hungary's Red Cross charity stamps of 30+30- and 50+50-filler (Scott Nos. B172 & B173) have been said to exist with the same overprint (proofs?). The stamps allegedly were used up mostly on registered mail. Postage for ordinary mail was paid in cash and a handstamp reading 'Taxa incasata in numerar' (meaning "postage received in cash"), in Romanian only, was used on the letters. I must say I have never been able to see such registered letters nor used copies of the above stamps.

3. The Odorheiu (Székelyudvarhely) issue of December 30, 1944: Hungarian stamps overprinted in black: "Erdély/Transilvania/ -.50P./Romania."

	Denomination	Color	Scott Number	Number Issued
1.	0.50-pengő on 1-fillér	greenish black	601	400
2.	0.50-pengő on 3-fillér	ultramarine	603	620
3.	0.50-pengő on 4-fillér	brown	604	1,248
4.	1-pengő on 4-fillér	brown	604	900
5.	1-pengő on 6-fillér	slate blue	606	98
6.	1-pengő on 10-fillér	light brown	608	278
7.	1-pengő on 18-fillér	dark gray	610	1,720
7a.	1-pengő on 18-fillér	inverted overprint		20
8.	1-pengő on 20-fillér	chestnut brown	611	160
9.	1-pengő on 30-fillér	carmine red	620	800
10.	2-pengő on 4-fillér	yellow brown	621	40
11.	2-pengő on 30-fillér	deep carmine	620	400
12.	2-pengő on 30-fillér	copper red	627	189
13.	2-pengő on 40-fillér	gray black	590	40
14.	2-pengő on 1-pengő	green	616	20

The overprint was applied on strips of twenty stamps (two horizontal rows of ten), the original sheets being separated into five pieces. Some incomplete strips were completed by adding odd stamps pasted up on the back side using the gummed border blanks, and thus some other varieties have been created:

	Denomination	Color	Scott Number	Number Issued
I.	0.50-pengő on 5-fillér	vermilion	605	10
II.	1-pengő on 2-fillér	red orange	602	2
III.	1-pengő on 10-fillér	olive brown	583	2

Postal stationery: A number of 18-filler postal cards (2,590) were overprinted at the same time with a slightly modified overprint: "ERDELY/TRANSILVANIA/50 Fillér/ROMANIA." Among the postal cards there were six that had stamps glued on above the imprinted stamp, so another variety was created:

IV. 50-fillér on 4-fillér — yellow brown — Scott No. 621 (Kossuth)

All six cards were obliterated, so no "Kossuth" can exist in mint condition.

The stamps were put on sale by the Odorheiu (Székelyudvarhely) post office on December 30, 1944. Two or three weeks before the stamps were overprinted, two handstamps of the designs (shown in Figures 4 and 5) were used on correspondence, bearing the unilingual Hungarian wording "Eszakerdély 1P (or 2P) Székelyudvarhely — România" (meaning "Northern Transsylvania, 1P, Odorheiu, Romania"), to show that postage was received in cash. The next large Romanian post office, in Sighişoara, refused to forward such correspondence, and so the overprinted stamps described above (Scott Nos. 605, 602, and 583) were hastily ordered in the local printing shop. At the same time a bilingual cancellation device (Figure 6) was improvised to be used on correspondence with the overprinted stamps. The stamps were used until around the end of May 1945.

Figure 4.

Figure 5.

Figure 6.

N.B.: The cancel in Figure 6 bears the date of July 30, 1945, the last time it was used, to witness a document telling the story of the Odorheiu stamps.

4. The Oradea (Nagyvárad) issue of January 27, 1945: Hungarian stamps of 1943-44 surcharged in black typography (except Nos. 8, 8a, 9b); Figure 7.

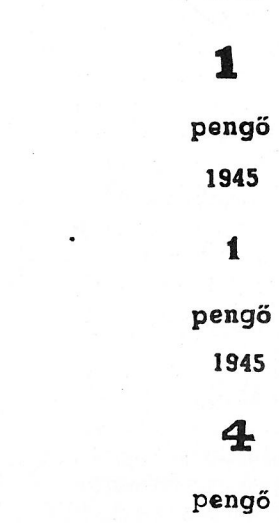


Figure 7. Type I, II, and III surcharges.

Nos. 23-30 were intended for use as postage due stamps, but actually were bought up almost completely by philatelists.

The stamps numbered 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 8a, 10, 11, 13, 14, 20, and 22 were the only ones put on sale to the general public at the three post offices in Oradea (Nagyvárad) and some other localities in the vicinity, such as

	Denomination	Color	Scott Number	Number Issued Type I	Type II	Type III
1.	60-fillér on 6-fillér	slate blue	606	1,890	210	—
1a.	60-fillér on 6-fillér	inverted surcharge		180	20	—
2.	60-fillér on 8-fillér	dark olive green	607	2,340	260	—
2a.	60-fillér on 8-fillér	inverted surcharge		180	20	—
3.	1-pengö on 1-fillér	greenish black	601	7,650	900	450
3a.	1-pengö on 1-fillér	inverted surcharge		170	20	10
4.	1-pengö on 2-fillér	red orange	602	255	30	15
5.	1-pengö on 3-fillér	ultramarine	603	255	30	15
6.	1-pengö on 4-fillér	brown	604	14,960	1,760	880
6a.	1-pengö on 4-fillér	inverted surcharge		170	20	10
7.	1-pengö on 5-fillér	vermilion	605	4,080	480	240
7a.	1-pengö on 5-fillér	inverted surcharge		170	20	10
8.	1-pengö on 18-fillér	dark gray-red surcharge	610	23,460	2,760	1,380
8a.	1-pengö on 18-fillér	inverted surcharge		595	70	35
9.	1-pengö on 30-fillér	deep carmine	620	1,615	190	95
9a.	1-pengö on 30-fillér	inverted surcharge		85	10	5
9b.	1-pengö on 30-fillér	gold surcharge		85	10	5
10.	2-pengö on 10-fillér	light brown	608	8,925	1,050	525
11.	3-pengö on 20-fillér	chestnut brown	611	4,930	580	290
12.	3-pengö on 20-fillér	olive	625	935	110	55
13.	3-pengö on 30-fillér	bright carmine	613	102,850	12,100	6,050
14.	3-pengö on 30-fillér	dark carmine	620	4,505	530	265
15.	3-pengö on 30-fillér	copper red	627	1,700	200	100
16.	3-pengö on 80-fillér	yellow brown	615	1,785	210	105
17.	3-pengö on 80-fillér	brown carmine	630	1,020	120	60
18.	4-pengö on 50-fillér	blue	614	1,105	130	65
19.	4-pengö on 50-fillér	dark blue	628	255	30	15
20.	5-pengö on 12-fillér	deep blue green	609	2,380	280	140
21.	5-pengö on 24-fillér	violet	626	255	30	15
22.	5-pengö on 1-pengö	green	616	1,700	200	100
Hungarian postage due stamps surcharged in black:						
23.	2-pengö on 2-fillér	brown red	J151	680	80	40
24.	2-pengö on 3-fillér	brown red	J152	255	30	15
25.	4-pengö on 4-fillér	brown red	J153	680	80	40
26.	4-pengö on 6-fillér	brown red	J154	170	20	10
27.	4-pengö on 8-fillér	brown red	J155	85	10	5
28.	4-pengö on 10-fillér	brown red	J156	170	20	10
29.	4-pengö on 12-fillér	brown red	J157	85	10	5
30.	4-pengö on 30-fillér	brown red	J162	85	10	5

Salonta (Nagyszalonta), etc. The two Satu-Mare (Szatmárnémeti) offices got a supply of No. 8 only. That city, eighty miles to the north of Oradea, was not part of the same regional administration, though its post office was dependent on the Oradea Directorate of Posts.

The Oradea 1945 issue was prompted partly by the need to restore and maintain some postal service in the region of about one million people, and partly (mostly) in order to raise funds for the support of the postal employees and their families. The stamps were sold at face value at the philatelic counter in Oradea in lots containing one each of Nos. 1-22, plus assorted quantities of the more common stamps in order to bring the total value to 486.30 pengö. Whoever bought five lots at once could also buy one each of Nos. 23-30 at face. Postal employees could buy preferential lots for 450 pengö, containing one each of the thirty-seven varieties (including the inverted "errors"), except No. 9a, which was included unnoticed, however, in some of these lots.

The surcharge was executed in typography on the 100 stamp sheets arranged in ten rows of ten stamps each. The stamps of the bottom row show numerals of a smaller type (II). These stamps of Type II normally have a vertically perforated bottom selvage. Five stamps on the right side of the ninth horizontal row show the word "Pengö" in lighter type (III). The values in "fillér" (Nos. 1 and 2) do not show such variety. The word "Pengő" was set in linotype, and the letter "g" almost

Figure 8.

Figure 9.

always appears cut short at the bottom. Vertical pairs of Type I plus II (Figure 8), and strips of Type I plus III (Figure 9) or plus II exist, as well as horizontal pairs of Type I plus III (one in each sheet).

The printing was done in the same printing shop of the Sonnenfeld family where the 1919 Oradea and Debrecen issues (listed by Scott at the end of "Hungary") had been printed.

Postal Stationery

At the same time, a few thousand 18-filler and some 12-filler Hungarian

Figure 10.

postal cards were revalued to 60-fillér, using an oval rubber stamp, reproduced in Figure 10. These revaluations were accomplished by hand at the post office, not at the printer's.

Other Minor Varieties

There were six stamps of No. 23 with inverted surcharge, the sheet being completed with a strip of six pasted upside down. The 5-pengő values (Nos. 20, 21, and 22) have the twenty-fifth stamp of each sheet with a defective "5." On some, the figure "5" is almost invisible.

Essays of the Surcharges Only

There were known to exist three sheets of each value (six different) on newsprint paper, showing all the variations, including the defective 5-pengő.

Postally-used stamps on letters or fragments are very scarce. Hungarian postmarks "Nagyvárad," "Nagyszalonta," and "Szatmárnémeti" were used in the cities, while some small localities canceled by ink pen or indelible pencil marks.

Mixed franking was possible with Hungarian stamps without surcharge and the above surcharge stamps. The same Hungarian stamps with similar surcharges on light blue or yellow tinted paper are Hungarian stamps issued later in 1945 (Scott Nos. 657-698). The surcharge similarity is a mere coincidence.

Hungarian stamps overprinted "SZATMAR (underlined)/SATU-MARE," with or without additional surcharge of 2-pengő, etc., in black (sixteen different) were sold in 1945-1946 to stamp dealers in Bucharest, allegedly as "Eliberation stamps of N. Transsylvania." This is a fraudulent issue by anonymous individuals; no one had ever seen them in Satu-Mare.

The Oradea (Nagyvárad) issue of January 27, 1945, was sold out in about six weeks time and new stamps had to be prepared.

5. The second Oradea (Nagyvárad) issue of 1945 (Figures 11-13), with bilingual inscriptions, emerged on March 7, 1945, and consisted of three original designs by local artist Mikes (10-filler to 50-fillér, "wheat"; 60-filler to 1.50-pengő, "grapes"; 2-pengő to 20-pengő, "maize") and measuring 21½ x 28½ mm, lithographed on colored paper as follows:

Figure 11.

Figure 12.

Figure 13.

	Denomination	Color	Number Issued Imperf	Perf 10½
31.	10-fillér	dark brown on brown	2,400	?
31a.	10-fillér	figure "10" in red	1,200	—
32.	20-fillér	ultramarine on bluish	2,400	?
33.	30-fillér	brown on orange	2,400	?
34.	40-fillér	violet on lilac	2,400	2,400
35.	50-fillér	brown on green	2,400	?
36.	60-fillér	red on rose	2,400	?
37.	70-fillér	green on lilac	2,400	2,400
38.	80-fillér	red on orange	2,400	2,400
39.	1-pengő	carmine on white	2,400	?
39a.	1-pengő	on very thin paper	—	720
39b.	1-pengő	on thick, grayish paper	—	720
40.	1.50-pengö	red on green	2,400	?
41.	2-pengő	brown on straw	2,400	?
42.	3-pengö	gray on rose	2,400	?
43.	5-pengő	olive on bluish	2,400	2,400
44.	10-pengő	violet on orange	2,400	2,400
45.	20-pengö	green on green	2,400	2,400

The perforated stamps marked with a question mark were printed in large quantities and actually used on correspondence until April 9, 1945. They allegedly were destroyed after the Romanian postal authorities took over and seized them. The stamps numbered 31-45 were sold in complete sets at face value at the philatelic counter. No. 31a was sold only in combination with two complete sets of thirty (Nos. 31-45 imperforate and 31-45 perforated).

Cancellations

The same Hungarian metallic canceling devices were used as on the first issue. New provisional bilingual rubber stamps were ordered and prepared for all three offices in Oradea, but delivered too late. They can be found used on Romanian stamps and stationery between April 9 and mid-May 1945 (Figure 14).

Figure 14.

6. The Năsăud (Naszod) issue of February 1945 (exact date unknown): This issue is illustrated in Figure 15, and consisted of one 2-pengő black stamp, perforated 11½. It was printed in sheetlets of eight stamps, ungummed, and issued for Năsăud County in the City of Bistriţa (Beszterce). After April 9, 1945, the Romanian postal authorities confiscated the remaining stamps and later put them on sale over a period of several years at the Bucharest philatelic counter.

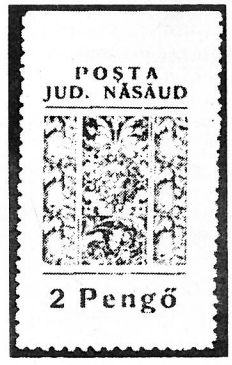


Figure 15.

In the thirty-seven years since this stamp's issuance, I have never seen a canceled copy of it.

7. The Zalău (Zilah) issue of February 12, 1945: The stamps of this issue were Hungarian postage stamps of 1941-1945 surcharged in black with new values in pengo and "Posta Salajului" in three lines. These were ordered by authority of the Finance Department (Administraţia Financiară) in the city of Zalău (Zilah), for the territory of Sălaj (Szilagy) County (known also as "Silvania").

The surcharge was executed in typography on half-sheets of five horizontal rows of ten stamps, by the small local printshop owned by the Seres family in the City of Zalău (Zilah). The Finance Department took the Hungarian

	Denomination	Color	Scott Number
1.	1-pengö on 1-fillér	greenish black	601
2.	1-pengö on 4-fillér	brown	604
3.	1-pengö on 8-fillér	dark olive green	607
4.	1-pengö on 10-fillér	brown	608
5.	1-pengö on 12-fillér	deep blue green	609
6.	1-pengö on 18-fillér	dark gray	610
7.	1-pengö on 20-fillér	chestnut brown	611
8.	1-pengö on 30-fillér	deep carmine	620
9.	2-pengö on 1-fillér	greenish black	601
10.	2-pengö on 2-fillér	red orange	602
11.	2-pengö on 3-fillér	ultramarine	603
12.	2-pengö on 4-fillér	brown	604
13.	2-pengö on 5-fillér	vermilion	605
14.	2-pengö on 6-fillér	slate blue	606
15.	2-pengö on 8-fillér	dark olive green	607
16.	2-pengö on 10-fillér	brown	608
17.	2-pengö on 12-fillér	deep blue green	609
18.	2-pengö on 18-fillér	dark gray	610
19.	2-pengö on 20-fillér	chestnut brown	611
20.	2-pengö on 30-fillér	bright carmine	613
21.	2-pengö on 30-fillér	deep carmine	620
22.	2-pengö on 50-fillér	blue	614
23.	2-pengö on 80-fillér	yellow brown	615
24.	2-pengö on 80-fillér	brown carmine	630
25.	2-pengö on 1-pengö	green	616
26.	3-pengö on 1-fillér	greenish black	601
27.	3-pengö on 4-fillér	brown	604
28.	3-pengö on 5-fillér	vermilion	605
29.	3-pengö on 8-fillér	dark olive green	607
30.	3-pengö on 10-fillér	brown	608
31.	3-pengö on 18-fillér	dark gray	610
32.	3-pengö on 20-fillér	chestnut brown	611
33.	3-pengö on 30-fillér	deep carmine	620
34.	3-pengö on 50-fillér	blue	614
35.	3-pengö on 80-fillér	yellow brown	615
36.	3-pengö on 1-pengö	green	616
37.	5-pengö on 1-fillér	greenish black	601
38.	5-pengö on 4-fillér	brown	604
39.	5-pengö on 5-fillér	vermilion	605
40.	5-pengö on 8-fillér	dark olive green	607
41.	5-pengö on 10-fillér	brown	608
42.	5-pengö on 12-fillér	deep blue green	609
43.	5-pengö on 18-fillér	dark gray	610
44.	5-pengö on 20-fillér	chestnut brown	611
45.	5-pengö on 30-fillér	deep carmine	620
46.	5-pengö on 50-fillér	blue	614
47.	5-pengö on 80-fillér	yellow brown	615
48.	5-pengö on 1-pengö	green	616
49.	5-pengö on 2-pengö	brown (large size)	571

Similar surcharge on Hungarian postage due stamps on 1941-1944 (thus used for ordinary postage):

50.	3-pengö on 2-fillér	brown red	J151
51.	3-pengö on 4-fillér	brown red	J153
52.	3-pengö on 6-fillér	brown red	J154
53.	3-pengö on 8-fillér	brown red	J155
54.	3-pengö on 10-fillér	brown red	J156
55.	3-pengö on 18-fillér	brown red	J159
56.	3-pengö on 20-fillér	brown red	J160
57.	3-pengö on 30-fillér	brown red	J162
58.	3-pengö on 36-fillér	brown red	J163
59.	5-pengö on 2-fillér	brown red	J151
60.	5-pengö on 4-fillér	brown red	J153
61.	5-pengö on 8-fillér	brown red	J155
62.	5-pengö on 10-fillér	brown red	J156
63.	5-pengö on 18-fillér	brown red	J159
64.	5-pengö on 20-fillér	brown red	J160
65.	5-pengö on 30-fillér	brown red	J162
66.	5-pengö on 36-fillér	brown red	J163

stamps from the post offices and cigar shops where they were usually sold to the public. Incomplete half-sheets were completed by pasting remainders (blocks, strips, single stamps) to fill the empty spaces from behind, using the gummed margins of the sheets for this purpose. Better copies of stamps of this issue usually have gum thus disturbed. There seems to have been no one around with any philatelic knowledge or interest, so no regard was taken of the fact that the paste-ups were of different colors and denominations.

The above list of sixty-six different stamps was compiled by Oradea philatelists late in 1945 and might not be absolutely complete; some varieties are one of a kind. Obviously, No. 49, which does not fit into the pattern of these half-sheets, was overprinted separately in smaller units, probably together with some Hungarian semi-postal stamps of the same size (40 x 28 mm) known to exist with the "Posta Salajului" overprint and considered to be proofs:

	Denomination	Color	Scott Number
I.	1-pengö on 20+20-fillér	brown and red	B171
II.	2-pengö on 30+30-fillér	henna and red	B172
III.	3-pengö on 50+50-fillér	brown violet and red	B173
IV.	5-pengö on 20+20-fillér	brown and red	B171
V.	5-pengö on 30+30-fillér	henna and red	B172
VI.	5-pengö on 50+50-fillér	brown violet and red	B173
VII.	5-pengö on 70+70-fillér	prussian blue and red	B174

The printshop was too small to have fifty identical types of capital "P" or of the figures 1, 2, 3, and 5, so letters "P" (for "Pengö") are thin on positions 51 to 67, and a thick boldface type appears on positions 68 to 100. Two types of "1," six types of "2," six types of "3," and five types of "5" were used. On position 52 an error appears: "Sajajului" instead of "Salajului."

I am speaking of positions 51 to 100 because all the complete or nearly complete half-sheets of fifty ever seen have been identified as being lower half-sheets. No stamp has been identified with certainty as coming from the upper half-sheets: i.e., of positions 1 to 50.

An entry in the books of the Zalău Finance Department, which I saw late in 1945, shows the number of stamps surcharged as follows:

4,400 stamps to 1-pengő
10,000 stamps to 2-pengö
2,103 stamps to 3-pengö
945 stamps to 5-pengö

Slightly less than half of those were officially destroyed as refuse:

1,284 of 1-pengö
3,921 of 2-pengö
1,013 of 3-pengö
423 of 5-pengö

This action might explain why most of the upper half-sheets were missing.

Thus, there were distributed among the eight offices of Sălaj County: Zalău (Zilah); Crasna (Szilagykraszna); Jibou (Zsibo); Cehul-Silvaniei (Szilágycseh); Tăşnad (Tasnad); Supurul de Jos (Alsoszopor); Şimleul-Silvaniei (Szilágysomlyo); and Mirşid (Nyárszeg), a total of:

Total Stamps	Surcharge	Face Value
3,116	1-pengö	3,116
6,079	2-pengö	12,158
1,090	3-pengö	3,270
522	5-pengö	2,610
Total 10,807		P21,154

The differences of the original Hungarian stamps having been simply ignored, there is no way to find out how many of each variety were printed.

Figure 16 is a reproduction from my 1946 catalogue, *Romania*. On this marking the distance between "P" and the figure "1," "2," "3," or "5" is about 4 mm, instead of the approximate 2 mm of the original surcharge. Prompted by the publicity given to the

surcharged stamps and relatively high values attributed to them in my catalogue, fake surcharges appeared on the Romanian philatelic market short-

3 P

Poşta

Sălajului

Figure 16.

ly afterwards. These can be easily recognized by the exaggerated distance between the "P" and the figure of the value.

The position of the letter "P" (for "Pengő") relative to the letter "a" of the word "Posta" is another characteristic by which later fakes can be distinguished. The distance between two imaginary lines, one going through the right side of "a" and the other through the left side of "P," is slightly variable, but the eccentricity is never more than 1 mm to the right or ⅛ mm to the left. (An exception is position 56 of the 1-pengo surcharge, where only the "P" is far to the left — above the "o" of "Posta.") Any surcharge showing an eccentricity beyond those limits is counterfeit.

Offset printing of the surcharge on the gum side is relatively frequent.

The surcharged stamps sold out in a few weeks, so another issue was prepared and put in use in March 1945, shown in Figures 17 and 18.

Figure 17.

8. Lithographed designs, roughly perforated 11:

Figure 18.

Nos. 67 and 68 were printed in sheets of 2 x 30 stamps separated by a vertical gutter; No. 69 in sheets of 2 x 25 stamps, separated by a horizontal gutter, the two halves arranged bottom-to-bottom so that the gutter pairs are tete-beche. Nos. 67 and 69 are known to exist imperforate. Plate proofs of No. 69 exist on white paper.

	Number issued:
No. 67	9,780
No. 68	10,230
No. 69	12,175

The unsold remainders were seized after April 9, 1945, by the Romanian postal authorities, and later put on sale at the Bucharest philatelic counter.

Cancellations

For both issues, the Zalău office used an old metallic device from before 1940, then used for money orders only, and with a design similar to a razor blade. A Hungarian-language single-line rubber stamp with "Zilah" and the date also was used. The Mirsid office used pen cancellation; the others improvised circular rubber stamps with the name in Romanian only and the date completed in handwriting. Legitimately used stamps on envelopes and fragments have been seen, but are very scarce.

All the local issues of Northern Transylvania are listed by the Swiss *Zumstein Catalogue*, at the end of the "Romania" section. They are listed also in the 1974 official *Roumanian Catalogue*. VP

	Denomination	Color	Size
67.	50-filler	orange yellow	23½ x 31¼ mm
68.	1-pengő	blue	23½ x 31¼ mm
69.	2-pengő	violet on yellow paper	39 x 25 mm

1944-45 TRANSYLVANIAN LOCALS

Want to buy or trade for varieties, proofs, essays, covers etc. Especially need several Odorheiu overprints and the Satu-Mare fantasy set. Have several "Posta Salajului" overprints to sell or trade. Also interested in Post-WW II locals from other European countries.

Jay T. Carrigan
12000 Fairfax Station Road
Fairfax Station, VA. 22039

ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBIULUI (Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the **HOHE RINNE** local posts, is available from the **EDITOR** for $11.00.

A 624-page ROMANIAN POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUE '74, by K. Dragomir and A. Surpateanu, is available from the editor to members of the Romanian Philatelic Club for $25.00.

I CAN SUPPLY

Austria used in Romania, Romania 19th century, Commemoratives 1903-1945; Covers, revenues, etc.

Advise me your interests!

Also extensive stocks of most other European countries.

J. BAREFOOT, 5 BOOTHAM, YORK YO3 7BL, ENGLAND.

Gold Medals for Romanian Philatelic Studies

In 1980, "Romanian Philatelic Studies" received two gold medals and one vermeil at various philatelic literature competitions.

In 1981, the Chicago Philatelic Society, at their Oct. 2-4 exhibition, awarded "Romanian Philatelic Studies" another gold medal and the American Philatelic Society, at their Sept. 24-27 STAMPSHOW '81 exhibition, awarded this publication a vermeil medal.

TAROM Romanian Airlines and Romanian National Tourist Office

Due to unpleasant experiences we had with these two companies, we feel that we can no longer endorse them or run their advertisements. While the loss of revenues is significant, we will not accept any ads which will not serve our readers and this publication.

ROMANIAN PHILATELIC BOOK SALE

Send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the editor for an updated price list of hard-to-find Romanian philatelic books and magazines.

TRADE ROMANIA

Scott #166-72 mint and others for items I need.
Send S.A.S.E. for list of my needs.

RAY GAGNON
23 Sylvan Ave., Lewiston, Maine 04240

Typesetting by: ANDYNE COMPUTERIZED TYPESETTING SERVICE, 118-02 Jamaica Ave., Richmond Hill, N.Y. 11418

ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES

Vol. 6, No. 3, 1982

Published by the ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB

A.P.S. Affiliate No. 88

EDITOR: GEORGE PATAKI, 84-47 KENDRICK PLACE, JAMAICA ESTATES, N.Y. 11432

PERMISSION IS GRANTED to reproduce any articles published in this bulletin if credit is given to the author and to the **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES.**

QUARTERLY RESEARCH BULLETIN
$8.00/year payable to
ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB
c/o the **EDITOR**

Additional and back copies of this bulletin (Nos. 3, 4 of 1978, 1, 2, 3, 4 of 1979, 1, 2, 3, 4 of 1980, 1, 2, 3, 4 of 1981, 1, 2, 3 of 1982) can be ordered for $2.00/copy.

The Romanian Official Stamps 1929-1932

by George Pataki

Starting in 1929 when the Romanian Posts became an autonomous agency, all the authorities and governmental institutions, from village and county to state level, which up to then had free franking privileges, had to pay for postal services.

The government approved this measure in order to enable the Postal Administration to balance its budget, which before 1929 was subsidized. A quarter of all the mail handled by the Romanian Posts was official correspondence which was a heavy burden to service without adequate compensation.

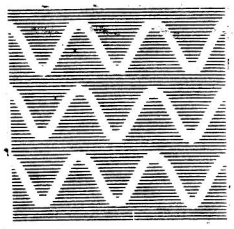
For the official mail, "official stamps" were issued and intended for use only by the authorities. They were purchased from the postal administration and were used only on official correspondence bearing seals with the coat-of-arms of the users.

Two designs were used: the first one issued in 1929 was overprinted in 1930, the second one was issued in 1931 and 1932.

1929, Eagle With Flag,
Wmk. horiz. wavy lines

All 10 stamps of this issue (Scott #01-010) show the same design: a flying eagle carrying a flag bearing the coat-of-arms of the provinces

of Banat, Muntemia (Walachia), Moldavia and Transylvania. The denomination is in the lower right corner and on top of it is the royal crown. The text is "ROMANIA" and "TIMBRU OFICIAL" (Official Stamp). They were printed by the photogravure method in Bucharest at the "Fabrica de Timbre" (Stamp Factory). The size of the stamp, from tip of perforation to tip of perforation, is about 21.5x26.5 mm., the size of the design is 18x22.75 mm. The paper is white, the watermark is of Type XI (horizontal wavy lines).



The set consists of the following stamps: 25 bani, orange; 50 bani, dark brown; 1 leu, dark violet; 2 lei, green; 3 lei, rose carmine; 4 lei, dark olive; 6 lei, greenish blue; 10 lei, blu; 25 lei, carmine brown; 50 lei, purple.

Color varieties include: 50 bani, brown bronze and 6 lei dark blue. They are perforated 13½. The 6 lei value also exists with perf. 14½x13½, while the 2 lei, 3 lei, 6 lei and 10 lei exist with perf. 14½x14.

Perf. varieties: 50 bani vertically imperf.; 1 leu horizontally imperf.; 6 lei vertically imperf. Furthermore, the 6 lei also exists with multiple perforation, for example 14½ on top and bottom, 14 on the left side and 13½ on the right side.

1930, Eagle With Flag
ovpt. "8 IUNIE 1930"
Wmk. horiz. wavy lines

On the occasion of King Carol II's return to the throne of Romania (Restoration), the 1929 issue was overprinted in black with "8 IUNIE 1930" (Scott #015-024). The size of the overprint, as well as of its letters and numbers, varies slightly because of the haste in work and lack of sufficient indentical typefaces. For example, the height of the letters and numbers varies from 1.5mm to 2mm., the distance from "8" to "I" in "IUNIE" varies from 0.5mm. to 1mm. and the distance from "E" in "IUNIE" to "1" in "1930" varies from 0.75mm. to 1.25mm.

The paper and the perforations are identical to the previous, unoverprinted issue, the watermark is also the same: type XI (horizontal wavy lines). The set consists of the same 10 values as the one described above.

Perforation variety: the 6 lei exists perforated 14½ on top and bottom, 14 on one side and 13½ on the other side.

Overprint varieties include: inverted overprints on the 25 bani, 2 lei, 4 lei, and 6 lei values. While the normal overprints are on the top of the stamps, the inverted overprints are on their bottom. Horizontally shifted overprints are also known, some of them even on two adjoining stamps. On regular overprinted postage stamps, the "8 IUNIE 1930" overprint is known with errors like "3 IUNIE 1930", "8 IUNIE 1980" and "8 IUNIE 1938", but these errors have not yet been reported on overprinted official stamps.

While the "8 IUNIE 1930" overprint was forged on regular postage stamps, making them more expensive (when the forgery is not discovered), for example on the 1928 "Posta Aeriana" (Air Mail) stamps with vertical wavy lines watermark, forged overprints on the official stamps have not yet been reported. Catalogue prices for the overprinted set is almost identical to those of the unoverprinted set, mint or used, therefore overprinting these stamps lacked financial incentive.

1930, Eagle With Flag,
ovpt. '8 IUNIE 1930", Unwmkd.

Four denominations were issued (Scott #011-014) on white unwatermarked paper as follows: 25 bani, orange; 50 bani, dark brown; 1 leu, dark violet; 3 lei, rose carmine.

The perforation is 14½x14, the 25 bani and 50 bani stamps are also perf. 14½x13½, and as a variety both exist perforated 14½ on top and bottom, 14 on one side and 13½ on the other.

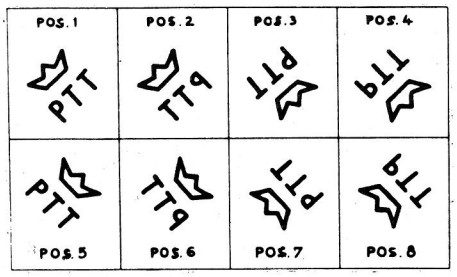
The 25 bani and the 50 bani stamps are also known, each in 100 copies, without overprint,

showing only the press marks ("blinddruck" in German).

1931, Coat-of-Arms with Lions, Wmk. P.T.T.

Four stamps were issued (Scott #025-028), designed by Ary Murnu (his name is in the lower right corner), showing the royal coat-of-arms, flanked by two lions, the denomination, and the words "ROMANIA" and "TIMBRU OFICIAL." The size of the stamps is 26x21mm. the size of the design is 23.25x18.5mm., and they were typographed in Bucharest at the "Fabrica de Timbre." The paper is white, the watermark is of type XII (crown over P.T.T.). The following stamps were issued: 25 bani, black; 1 leu, violet; 2 lei, light green; 3 lei, rose carmine.

The 25 bani, 1 leu and 3 lei stamps are perf. 14x14½ while the 2 leu stamp is perf. 13½.



1932, Coat-of-Arms with Lions, Wmk. C.C.

Five stamps were issued (Scott #029-033), perf. 13½, identical in design with the previous issue but with watermark type XIII (crown over "II" and "C" and "C" back to back) as follows: 25 bani, black; 1 leu, violet; 2 lei, light green; 3 lei, rose carmine; 6 lei, red brown.

The unoverprinted 50 Lei official stamp is known to have been counterfeited.

The number of issued stamps was un limited as they were printed according to the necessities.

The printing method is photogravure.

The official stamps were taken out of use on March 15, 1932.

An extensive collection of Romanian philatelic magazine FILATELIA is available through the editor.

AUCTION ACTION

Free 5,000+ lot world wide auction catalogue with many fine, unusual Romanian items. Any philatelic properties to sell?

Call or write:

SPIRAL STAMP Co. (Herb Klein),
32-15 58th St., Woodside, N.Y. 11377
(212) 726-4400.

ROMANIAN STAMP CLUBS

Below we publish the mailing addresses of the county stamp clubs organized by the Philatelic Association of Romania. In our experience, most of these clubs do not answer correspondence from western collectors and researchers. However this rule is not ironclad and those interested can take their chances.

A.F.R. Stamp Clubs	Mailing Addresses
Alba	P.O. Box 66, 2500 Alba Iulia
Arad	P.O. Box 62, 2900 Arad
Argeș	P.O. Box 31, 0300 Pitești
Bacău	P.O. Box 16, 5500 Bacău
Bihor	P.O. Box 138, 3700 Oradea
Bistrița	Ștefan Pop, Aleea Pionierilor Nr. 6, bl.B2, 4400 Bistrița
Botoșani	P.O. Box 11, 6800 Botoșani
Brașov	P.O. Box 1154, 2200 Brașov
Brăila	Constantin Mihalache, D.J.P.Tc.,Str.Danubiu Nr.8, 6100 Braila
București	Str. 13 Decembrie Nr.19, 70707 București
Buzău	P. Constantinescu, Bd. 23 August Nr. 39, 5100 Buzău
Caraș-Severin	Ioan Borca, Str. Lenin Nr.15, apt. 21, 1700 Reșița
Calarași	Aurel Grigorescu, Str. Gheorghiu-Dej, bl.7, apt.57, 8500 Călărași
Cluj	P.O. Box 79, 3400 Cluj-Napoca
Constanța	P.O. Box 111, 8700 Constanța
Covasna	Petre Oprea, Str. Kriza János Nr.7, 4000 Sf. Gheorghe
Dimbovița	P.O. Box 100, 0200 Tirgoviște
Dolj	P.O. Box 85, 1100 Craiova
Galați	P.O. Box 124, 6200 Galați
Giurgiu	P.O. Box 14, 8375 Giurgiu
Gorj	P.O. Box 62, 1400 Tirgu Jiu
Harghita	P.O. Box 39, 4100 Mircurea-Ciuc
Hunedoara	P.O. Box 114, 2700 Deva
Ialomița	P.O. Box 48, 8400 Slobozia
Iași	P.O. Box 48, 6600 Iași
Maramureș	Ioan Chioran, Str. Secerel 8/4, 4800 Baia Mare
Mehedinți	Epure Bencea, Str. Tiparescu Nr. 58, bl.V.6, apt.14, 1500 Drobeta-Tr. Severin
Mureș	P.O. Box 145, 4300 Tg. Mureș
Neamț	P.O. Box 100, 5600 Piatra-Neamț
Olt	Virgil Sălcianu, Str. Unirii Nr.3A, bl.G.A.27, apt.11, 0500 Slatina
Prahova	P.O. Box 214, 2000 Ploiești
Satu Mare	P.O. Box 97, 3900 Satu Mare
Sălaj	P.O. Box 86, 4700 Zalău
Sibiu	P.O. Box 35, 2400 Sibiu
Suceava	P.O. Box 75, 5800 Suceava
Teleorman	Marcel Scarlet, Str. Proletari Nr.113b, bl.G.3, apt.2, 0700 Alexandria
Timiș	P.O. Box 204, 1900 Timișoara
Tulcea	Nicolae Georgescu, Str. 23 August Nr.148, 8800 Tulcea
Vaslui	P.O. Box 24, 6500 Vaslui
Vilcea	Ioan Șahinian, Str. Olănești Nr.10, sc.B, apt.8, 1000 Rm. Vilcea
Vrancea	P.O. Box 101, 5300 Focșani.

REVIEW:

ROMANIAN POSTAL RECEIPTS, 1887 to 1905.

Compiled by DON HELLER from official sources.

206 W. Fairmount Ave. State College, PA 16801

Published in April 1982, large format (8½" x 11"), 72 pages, printed on one side. It can be ordered directly from Don Heller, the price is $7.50 postpaid.

As is known, the price of a stamp, a postcard or a cover is often determined by the scarcity of the postmark (or postmarks) found on it. However, the rarity of a postmark is difficult to establish since there are often no official records of its introduction, use or destruction. Postal receipt records, however, provide an indirect measure of rarity. For example, for the fiscal year 1887-88, the post office of BACAU shows a total of 41,914.50 lei postal receipts, while the post office of BAIA-DE-ARAMA shows a total of 511.85 lei. Thus we can safely presume that the Bacau post office was about 81 times more active than the Baia-de-Arama post office, therefore a stamp, a postcard or a cover handled by the Baia-de-Arama post office will command a substantial premium over a like item, in similar condition, handled by the Bacau post office.

The receipt data is taken from two report of the Romanian P.T.T., which may be found in the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

This book should be very useful for researchers, collectors and dealers alike.

A HYPOTHESIS REGARDING THE 1898 "WHEAT EAR" ISSUE ON RIBBED PAPER.

Dr. Eng. Marcel Şapira, Sos. Oltenitei No. 73, bl.5, et. II, apt. 10, 75504 Bucharest, Romania

The classification of the "Wheat Ear" issues presented on page 157 of the Romanian Postage Stamps Catalogue of 1974 describes the "Ie" issue of 1898 as printed on white paper, horizontally ribbed (25 ribs per 2 cm.), with "large PR" watermark (type IV, 14 mm. high). Ribbed paper has parallel raised ridges, which can be seen with the naked eye and felt by touch.

These stamps are very scarce and even the late Alfred Nicolau, one of the most thorough researchers of this issue, could not study more than about 100 such stamps, all being cancelled in 1898.

What is surprising, however, is not their scarcity but their type of watermark. Following the succession of various "PR" types of watermarks, it would have been logical that the "Ie" issue would have had either the "medium size PR" watermark (12.5 mm. in hight) of the previous issue ("Id" of Jan. 1897) or the "reversed PR" watermark of the following issue ("If" of 1898). The "large PR" watermark was used earlier, in 1895, with the "Ic" issue.

Why was the "large PR" watermarked, ribbed paper used with the "Ie" issue? This question was asked by several researchers. Alfred Nicolau, for example, considered the stamps on ribbed paper with "large PR" watermark to be paper varieties of the Jan. 1895, "Ib" issue.

Recently, I aquired a 10 bani emerald

green stamp (Scott #122) of the "Wheat Ear" issue (mint, never hinged, original gum) on white, ribbed paper (the ribs are on the front of the stamp) with a "medium size PR" watermark (type III). The watermark is 12.5 mm. high and has narrow letters, characteristic for type III. Well-known Romanian researchers of the "Wheat Ear" issue, such as Const. Marius Jianu, Barbu Popescu, H. Riesemberg, and Corneliu Spineanu, have examined and confirmed, that indeed the stamp is on ribbed paper and the watermark is of type III, therefore it should be of the Jan. 1897 "Id" issue. C.M. Jianu claimed that he had previously seen this variety while B. Popescu, and C. Spineanu stated that it was the first time they had seen it.

According to A. Nicolau's hypothesis, the ribbed paper with "large PR" watermark (type IV) already existed in 1895. Ribbed paper with "medium size PR" water mark was also used in 1897, as is proven through my above-mentioned 10 bani, emerald green stamp.

In 1898, the ribbed paper was watermarked with the "reversed PR" (type V) but the stamps were printed in new colors to conform to U.P.U. regulations.

Therefore, it can be presumed that stamps on ribbed paper with "large PR" watermark, printed in 1895, and "medium size PR" watermark, printed in 1897 were made only accidentally; the bulk of these stamps being made on paper without ribs.

In this way, the succession of various "PR" watermarked stamps appears to be logical: "small PR" in 1893/94 ("Ia" issue); "large PR" in Jan. 1895 ("Ib" issue) and Sept. 1895 ("Ic" issue); "medium size PR" in Jan. 1897 ("Id" issue); and "reversed PR" in 1898 ("If", "Ig" and "Ih" issues).

The fact that all the known stamps with ribbed paper and "large PR" watermark were used in 1898, instead of 1895, when they were issued could be explained if they were stocked in a warehouse until they were distributed and sold (?).

If the above hypothesis is accepted, the "Ie" stamps of the "Wheat Ear" issues should be eliminated from the catalogue as a separate issue. They should only be presented as a paper variety (ribbed paper) of the "large PR" watermarked issue of 1895 ("Ic") and the "medium size PR" watermarked issue of 1897 ("Id").

Penitentiary Censor Markings, 1941-1943

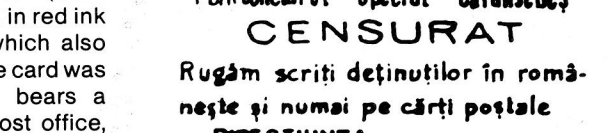
Mircea Teleguţ, Bul. Eroilor No. 22, apt. 13, 1900 Timişoara, Romania

On four postal cards, mailed between Feb. 2, 1941 and Oct. 29, 1943, by a convict (probably an army deserter), I found the following censor markings:

On the first card in chronological order, there is a circular, double frame type marking, 30. mm. in diameter, reading on the circumference: "Inchisoarea Militară a Div. . . . Inf. Timişoara - România" (Military Prison of Inf. Div. . . . Timişoara - Romania) and in the center: "CENZURAT" (Censored). The marking was applied in red ink on a postal card (H&G #98), which also bears the censor's signature. The card was written on Jan. 1, 1941 and bears a cancellation of the Timişoara post office, dated Feb.2,1941 This indicates that the prison authorities held it for about one month before they forwarded it.

Despite the fact that Romania entered World War II only later (on June 22, 1941), the word "Cenzurat" (Censored) already appears on this military censor marking showing that the convict's mail, originating in military prisons, was censored even during peace time.

The same convict was later transferred to the "Special Penitentiary Caransebes" as it results from the second postal card (H&G #101) that he wrote. This card bears a "CARANSEBES" postmark dated "15 IUL



941" and two censor markings. One of them is a frameless, linear marking, reading on five lines: "Penitenciarul Special Caransebeş/CENSURAT/ Rugăm scriti deţinuţilor în romă-/neşte şi numai pe cărţi poştale/DIRECŢIUNEA" (Special Penitentiary Caransebes/Censored / Please write to the convicts in Roma-/nian and only on postcards/Administration). The marking is in green ink and is accompanied by the censor's signature. The other censor marking is a frameless "CENZURAT" marking, with 9-10 mm. high letters, applied in violet ink at the censorship office in

Caransebes or in Lugoj, which was the county seat during that time.

The third postal card (H&G #103) has a "CARANSEBES" postal marking dated "9.IUN. 942" and a censor marking in a rectangular 37 x 15 mm. frame, reading on two lines: "PENITENCIARUL SPECIAL/ CENSURAT" (Special Penitentiary/Censored). It can be seen that the middle line (probably reading "CARANSEBES") was removed from the censorship stamper. The card also bears a frameless "Cenzurat Lugoj Nr. 1" marking in italics.

The fourth postal card (H&G #108) was mailed from the same prison, as can be seen from the sender's address: "Penitenciarul Special Caransebes, jud. Severin". Instead of the penitentiary's censorship marking with the word "Censored" there is a marking reading: "VAZUT DE NOI/Administrator" (Seen by us/Admini-

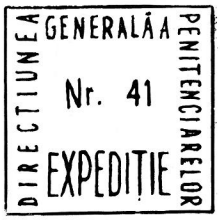
strator which has the same meaning and a signature. The card, mailed on Oct. 29, 1943, also bears the common "CENZURAT LUGOJ 18" marking in a rectangular frame.

VĂZUT DE NOI

Administrator

It is hoped that other researchers will report on censor markings from other prisons, penal colonies, labor camps, etc. and that these efforts will contribute to the general study of Romanian censor markings.

EDITOR'S NOTE: On some postal cards mailed between June and Dec. 1952, by a convict, probably a political detainee, sentenced to hard labor and working at the Danube-Black Sea Canal, I found an administrative marking evidently used as a censor marking. It consists of a 27.5 x 27.5 mm. frame and a text reading: "DIRECTIUNEA GENERALĂ A PENITENCIARELOR Nr. 41 EXPEDIȚIE" (General Directorate of the Penitentiaries No. 41 Dispatch) and was applied in blue ink.



All of these cards were written in pencil, and all have almost the same content - the convict is asking his wife to write him, visit him and send him food, money and clothing.

The convict's mail was strictly censored. But, instead of applying a censor marking, an administrative marking of the labor camp's mail dispatch service was used to indicate such an operation.

New Book on "Austrian Posts in Romania"

Dr. Emanoil Munteanu, author of the excellent monograph "The Postal History of Sibiu", has recently finished an original and well researched manual and catalogue (in Romanian language) about the Austrian posts on Romania's territory. The first chapter of this book, about 100 of its total 325 pages, explains how the catalogue should be used and gives the historical background of the area. The following three chapters describe: A. the prestamp period and its postal markings; B. the postal markings used during the period after stamps became available; and C. special markings such as consular postal markings, fieldpost markings and postal markings of the Lloyd and D.D.S.G. companies.

After its publication, we will review the book and try to obtain a few copies for interested members.

The History of an "Essay"

Don Heller

206 West Fairmount Ave, State College, Pa 16801.

In 1865 the French engraver J. Dulos submitted some essays to the Romanian Government for the new Prince Cuza stamps (figure 1). Although very well executed, their d e li very was se vere ly delayed and the essays arrived just as Cuza was forced to abdicate.

Fig. 1. the original essay

The Dulos essays are fairly well documented except for one aspect, the "type refait" as it is called by Eduardo Cohen (Contributions a l'etude de essais des timbres-poste de Roumanie, Lisbon, 1945, p. 23). (figure 2). "Refait" is the past tense of the French verb "refaire", which literally means "to do again." Colloquially, "refaire" means "to swindle." The "type refait" is indeed a swindle, one of a variety of stamp-like items made from nineteenth century philatelic illustrations.

Fig. 2. the "type refait"

In September 1867 the stamp journal Le Timbre Poste, published by the dealer J.B. Moens of Brussels, began a serialized article "Stamps of Moldavia and Romania," by Dr. Magnus, pseudonym for Dr. J.A. Legrand. The February 1868 installment illustrated, for the first time that I was able to discover, the Dulos essay. Figure 3 is taken from The Stamp Collectors Magazine, a British journal which serialized a translation of the article. As can be seen, the illustration has a new appearance and differs in a clear way from the original design. No attempt was made to have an exact copy, only to illustrate.

Fig. 3. Moens illustration, 1868

During the nineteenth century there was considerable cooperation among European stamp journal publishers, and no one took the effort to make a new illustration when Moens could be borrowed. Hence Moens illustration found its way into other journals and dealers price lists. Moens himself was the largest European dealer for many years. In time the quality of the illustration deteriorated.

I note, for example, use of the Moens Dulos illustration in the following additional publications:

a) Arthur Maury's catalog, Paris, 1868 - excellent condition, as for figure 3;

b) Moens catalog for 1884 - a photo could not be obtained, but the illustration shows some damage to the oval behind

Fig. 4. Moens illustration, 1892

the head, though not as extensive as in figure 4. The vertical line at right is broken. The line over the O in ROMANA is not broken;

c) Moens catalog for 1892 - figure 4;

d) the Romanian journal Timbrofilul of January 1893, published by the notorious Capt. C.M. Moroiu - figure 5;

Fig. 5. Timbrofilul illustration, 1893

e) the German journal Der Philatelist of December 15, 1900, in an article "Probedruck, Essais, Proofs," by A. Reinheimer - figure 6.

Fig. 6. Der Philatelist illustration, 1900

Comparison of figure 2, the "type refait," and figures 3-6 shows that the Moens illustration was used to make a new variety of the Dulos essay. I would venture to say that this variety was not known before 1893, based on the deteriorating condition of the illustrations. While Reinheimer does not make explicit mention of the variety in the above article, he does list color and paper varieties not recorded by Cohen or myself on the original. Reinheimer did make a distinction between the two types in his book Kurzgefasste Beschreibung der Essays-Sammlung von Martin Schroeder (Leipzig, 1903, p. 34, "... sehr feine Abzuge, .. . In demselben Typus, aber weniger feiner Ausfuhrung: ..."). Schroeder's collection was formed in the years 1893-1902. The "type refait" was also known in 1913 to G.B. Duerst, a British collector who wrote "Die Essais von Rumanien" in a publication of the Berliner Philatelisten Klub.

Can we establish who made the "type refait"? Probably not, but consider the splotch in the border behind Cuza's head. As shown in the catalogs, this damage is not seen in 1868, shows slightly in 1884 and is fully pronounced in 1892. In both figure 4 and 6 the upper border of the splotch is thick and dark. In both figures 2 and 5 the border is thinned out, as though an attempt had been made to remove it. This seems to point to Moroiu as the manufacturer.

It is perhaps worth mentioning that there are other stamp-like reproductions of Moens illustrations. In my own collection are copies of the Moldavian Bulls, the 2 parale Wonneberg printing of the Cuza stamp, on laid paper, and the Kustendje-Czernavoda local post. It is also possible to tie the Wonneberg copy to the January 1893 issue of Timbrofilul.

Additional and back copies of this bulletin can be ordered for $2.00/copy.

Articles for the bulletin

The readers are invited to send the editor original research articles. Short notes or lengthy studies are equally welcome. Good illustrations are important. Articles sent in Romanian language will be translated by the editor.

FILATELIA
Monthly, Romanian Philatelic Magazine
$23.00/year
check to ILEXIM, Press Department
P.O. Box 1.136-1.137, Bucharest, Romania.

TRADE ROMANIA
Scott #166-72 mint and others
for items I need.
Send S.A.S.E. for list of my needs.
RAY GAGNON
23 Sylvan Ave., Lewiston, Maine 04240

COMMENTS on published articles can be sent directly to the authors. **INQUIRIES** regarding the **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB** or the **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES** can be sent to the editor.

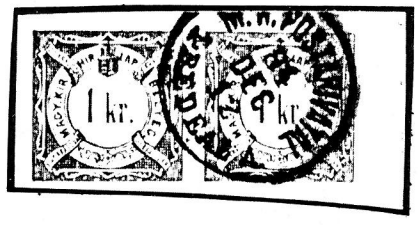
Romanian Philatelic Studies

QUARTERLY RESEARCH BULLETIN
$8.00/year payable to
ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB
c/o the EDITOR

A Little Known Hungarian Post in Romania

László Erös, Str. Horia No. 19, 3400 Cluj-Napoca, Romania

I present here a pair of the Hungarian newspaper tax stamps (Scott #PR 1) issued in 1868, obliterated with a Hungarian single circle type postal marking, about 25.5 mm. in diameter, with its text reading "M. K. POSTAHIVATAL PREDEAL A." (Royal Hungarian Post Office Predeal A.) and dated on three lines "84 DEC 12".



Predeal, during that period, was a border point between Romania and Austro-Hungary, on Romanian territory. At first I believed that this to be an ordinary border post office. However the fact that its postmark obliterated newspaper tax stamps, which after 1867 (when the Hungarian Posts became independent) were cancelled only upon arrival (to accelerate shipping and handling) suggested a different situation.

The explanation appears in Vol. VI of "The Monograph of Hungarian Stamps", in the chapter describing Hungarian Posts abroad. In 1881, in accord with an agreement reached between Romania and Hungary, a Hungarian post office, with Hungarian personnel and with equipment identical to that used in Hungary, was established in Predeal. This post office operated there for almost a quarter of a century. The Monograph quotes the postal ordinance of May 24, 1881 as follows: "At the international railway station in Predeal (Romania), on April the 1st of this year, a royal Hungarian post office was established, which handles the sorting of letters and parcels addressed to Romania, Turkey and Bulgaria, those arriving from the aforementioned countries, as well as receives and delivers official shipments. Private mail adressed to Predeal has to be transferred to the Romanian post office of that city, and thus has to be franked by the rate for Romania."

This Hungarian post office ceased operations on April 28, 1904. According to the Monograph, besides the marking presented here, a similar one without the letter "A" was also used in Predeal, and later on, two others of a different type were used: large circle, upper and lower spandrels shaded and with the royal Hungarian crown.

It would be desirable if researchers in Bucharest could find in the State Archives the corresponding Romanian text of the agreement which established the Hungarian post office in Predeal.

Forwarding Agents in the Danube Region

Reprinted from THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST, JUNE, 1982.

by **Norbert Blistyar**

In the second half of the nineteenth century, and coincidental with the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire, some of the territories in the Carpatho-Danubian region started on the road to their independence. New artificial obstacles were created between these territories which hindered commerce and communications. The territory located north of the Danube — the principality of Walachia — still under Turkish suzerainty, had its commerce and especially its communications network better organized than the region south of Danube (which today constitutes Bulgaria) where the Turkish rules were more stringent.

As was shown by V.D. Vanderwelde in "The Role of the Forwarding Agent," published in the *British Journal of Russian Philately*, March 1973, this situation favored the need for forwarding agents.

Careful examination of some covers mailed during the 1856-1862 period from Zimnicea to Christo Georgief, an important merchant in Bucharest, verified my belief that there existed several persons

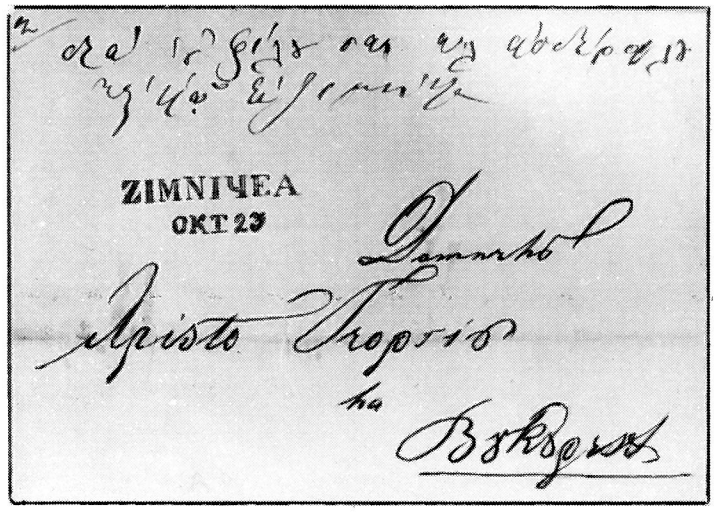


Figure 1a.

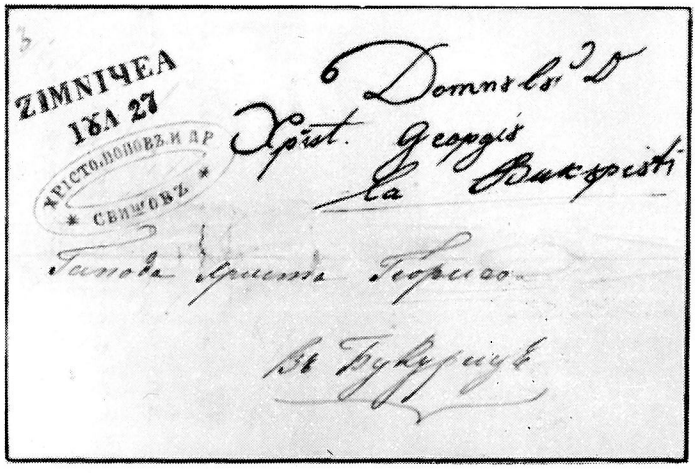


Figure 2a.

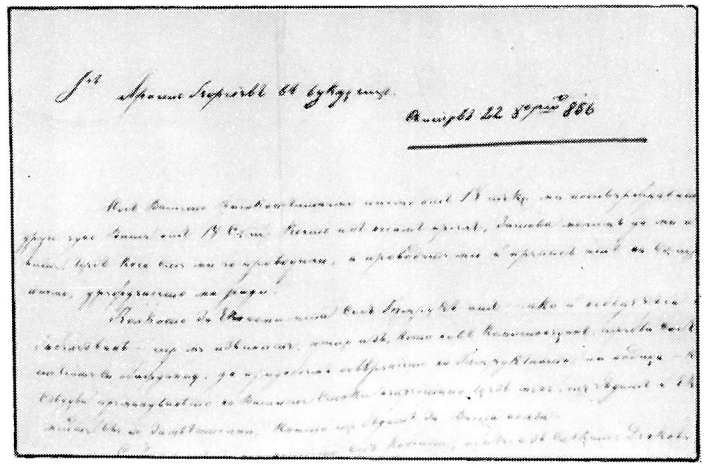


Figure 1b.

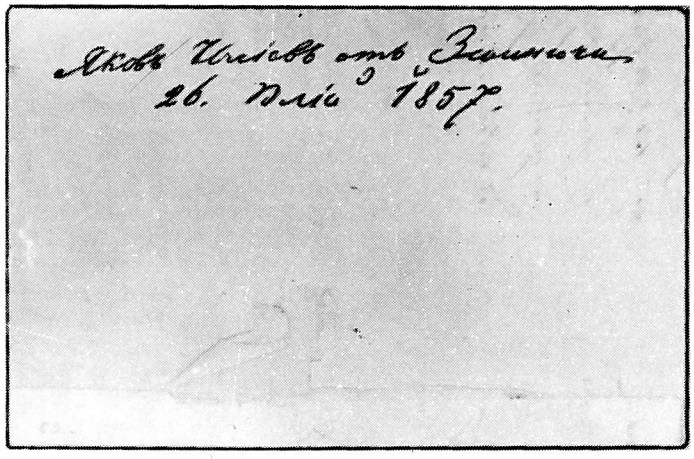


Figure 2b.

Norbert Blistyar is a chemical engineer living in Bocsa, a small industrial town in the Banat region of southwest Romania. He is a researcher of Romanian postal history, particularly of the Banat region. Several of his articles have been published in **Romanian Philatelic Studies** *and in the Romanian magazine,* **Filatelia.**

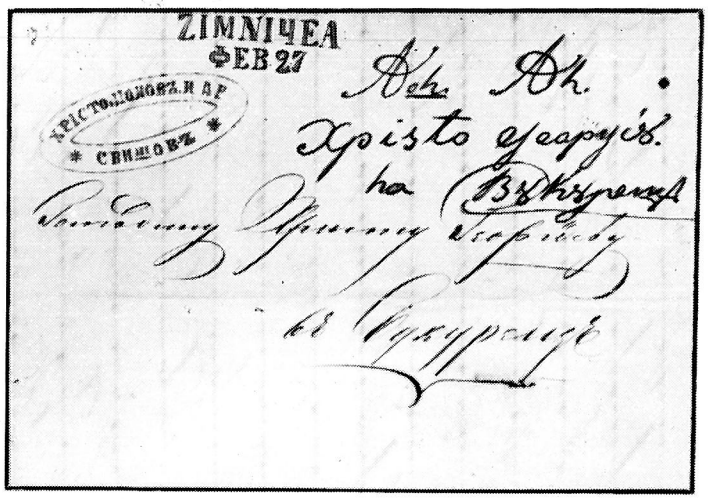


Figure 3a.

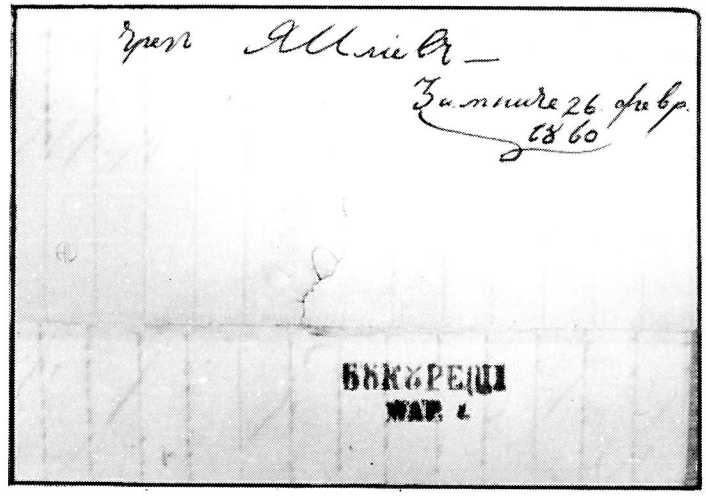


Figure 3b.

who acted as intermediaries in forwarding mail and cash originating south of the Danube.

Figure 1a shows a cover bearing a "ZIMNICEA/OKT 23" marking. It was written on October 22, 1856, in Sistov, as can be seen from the contents of the letter (Figure 1b.) Zimnicea is located north of the Danube and Sistov is south of that river, which was the border between Walachia and what is today Bulgaria. The cover shows no marking that would give any indication of who mailed it from Zimnicea. Nevertheless, it is our first proof of the existence of forwarding agent arrangements between these two Danubian port-cities.

A second cover, Figure 2a, bears a "ZIMNICEA/IUL 27" postal marking. Its front displays the personal marking of the sender, "CHRISTO POPOVICI/ SISTOV," and its back has a manuscript marking, "Iacov Iliev din (of) Zimnicea, 26 Iul 1857" (Figure 2b). On the front of the cover, the address was rewritten by the forwarding agent Iliev to make it more easily legible in the Romanian posts (i.e., in the lettering used at that time in Walachia).

A cover dated 1860 (Figures 3a and 3b) is almost identical to the above example.

A similar procedure is attested to by the cover shown in Figure 4a. Here the sender is "Constantin Mihailovici of Sistov," and

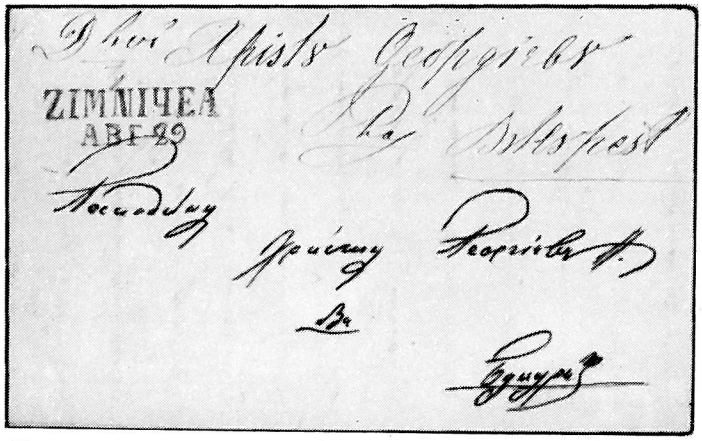


Figure 4a.

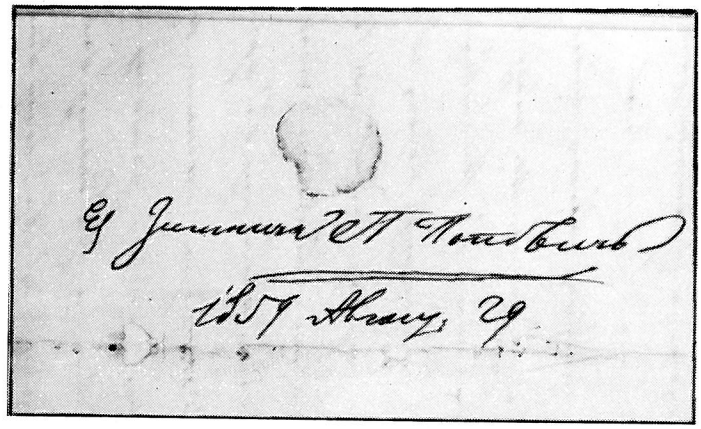


Figure 4b.

Figure 5a.

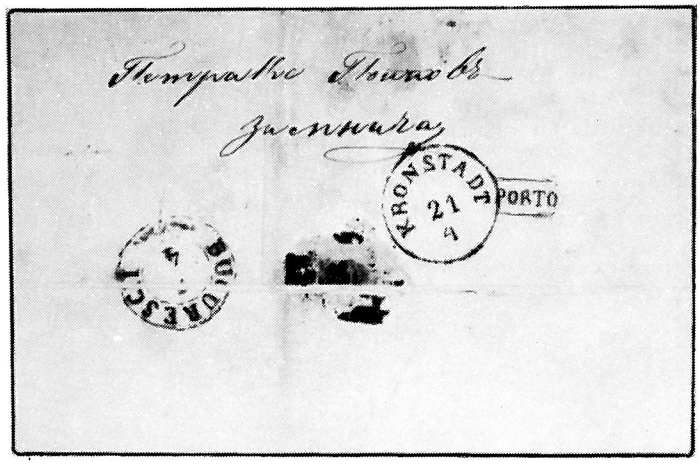


Figure 5b.

the date is August 28, 1859. The forwarding agent, Petrake Poppovics of Zimnicea, wrote his name, his locality, and the date "1859 August 29" on the back of the cover when he posted the letter (Figure 4b).

This same Petrake Poppovics was also the agent for a letter (Figure 5a) posted in Zimnicea in 1863 but sent by Ivanov and Nicolaevici of Sistov, merchants, to Brasov (Kronstadt). In this case, the intermediary's marking is seen on the front of the cover together with the sender's marking.

On the back of the cover (Figure 5b), once again the handwritten name of the intermediary and his locality (Zimnicea) are to be found. This cover, presented in *Romanian Philatelic Studies,* No. 1, 1981, an example of cooperation between the Walachian and the Austrian posts, represents my starting point in the identification of the forwarding agents operating in this region.

The next two covers shown were written and posted in Zimnicea. The first (Figure 6), written in 1861 by Iacov Iliev, contains information regarding his commercial activities and some letters of a certain D. Nalov, mailed from Sistov. The second (Figure 7), sent in 1862 by Petrake Poppovics, attests to the mailing of a cash (in coins) shipment, originating in Sistov from the same D. Nalov.

The following conclusions can be drawn:

1. Between 1856 and 1862 in Zimnicea (Walachia), some persons were transmitting letters and cash sent from Sistov (south of the Danube) through the Romanian posts, and therefore were acting as forwarding agents.

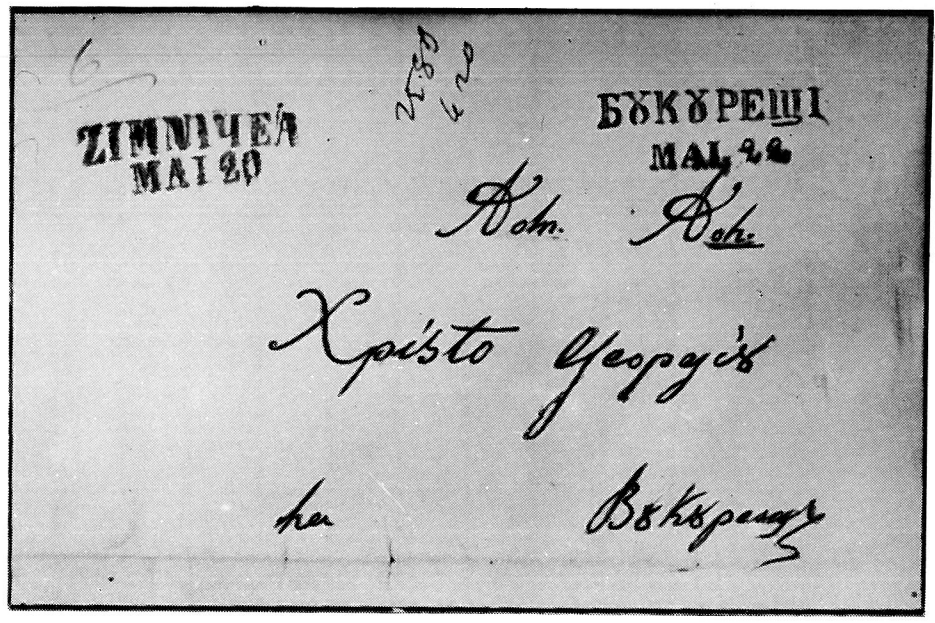


Figure 6.

2. This activity was not casual or accidental: Each forwarding agent during this time period served his own clientele, possibly his business partners.

3. Beginning in 1857, rules for forwarding these letters were established. These included rewriting of the address in a manner more convenient for the Romanian posts, as well as the application to the back of the cover of the name of the forwarding agent and the date when the letter was posted in Romania. According to V.D. Vanderwelde, this is an "r/a" (re-addressing the cover) method.

By examining the aforementioned covers, we have been able to prove the existence of forwarding agents in the Zimnicea-Sistov zone. Looking at the map of the territories along the lower part of the Danube, one is able to find other pairs of localities, on either side of the river, where similar methods of transmitting mail could have existed; pairs such as Calafat and Vidin, Bechet and Oreava, Tn. Magurele and Nicopoli, Giurgiu and Rusciuc, Oltenita and Turtucaia, and Calarasi and Silistra.

Collectors having covers mailed from these cities are asked to check them carefully. If proof is found of activity by forwarding agents operating in these other localities, the Romanian Philatelic Club (APS Affiliate No. 88) would like to be informed. Write to the president, George Pataki, 84-47 Kendrick Place, Jamaica, NY 11432.

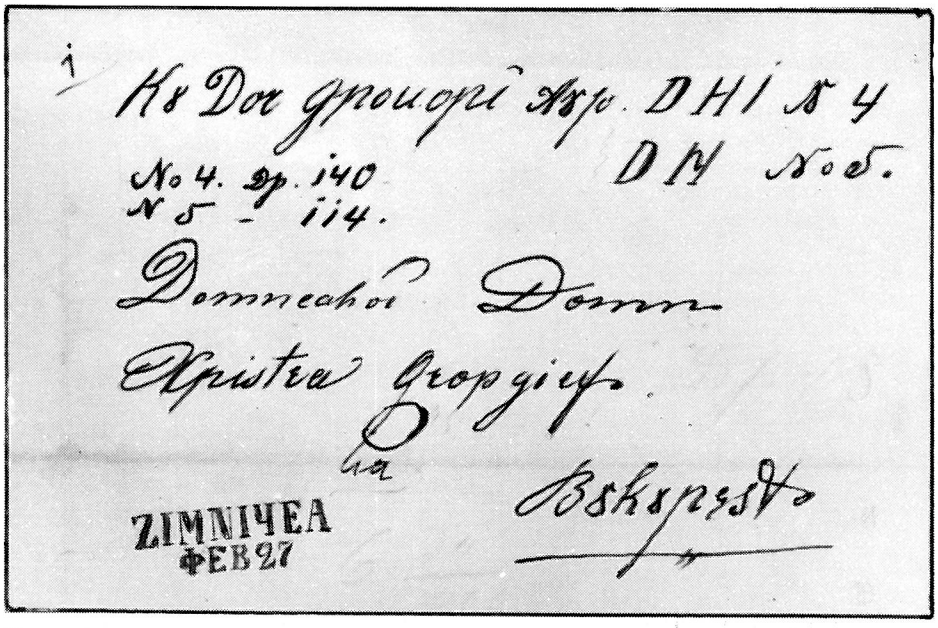


Figure 7.

REVIEW:

ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES

Bibliography, 1977-1981.

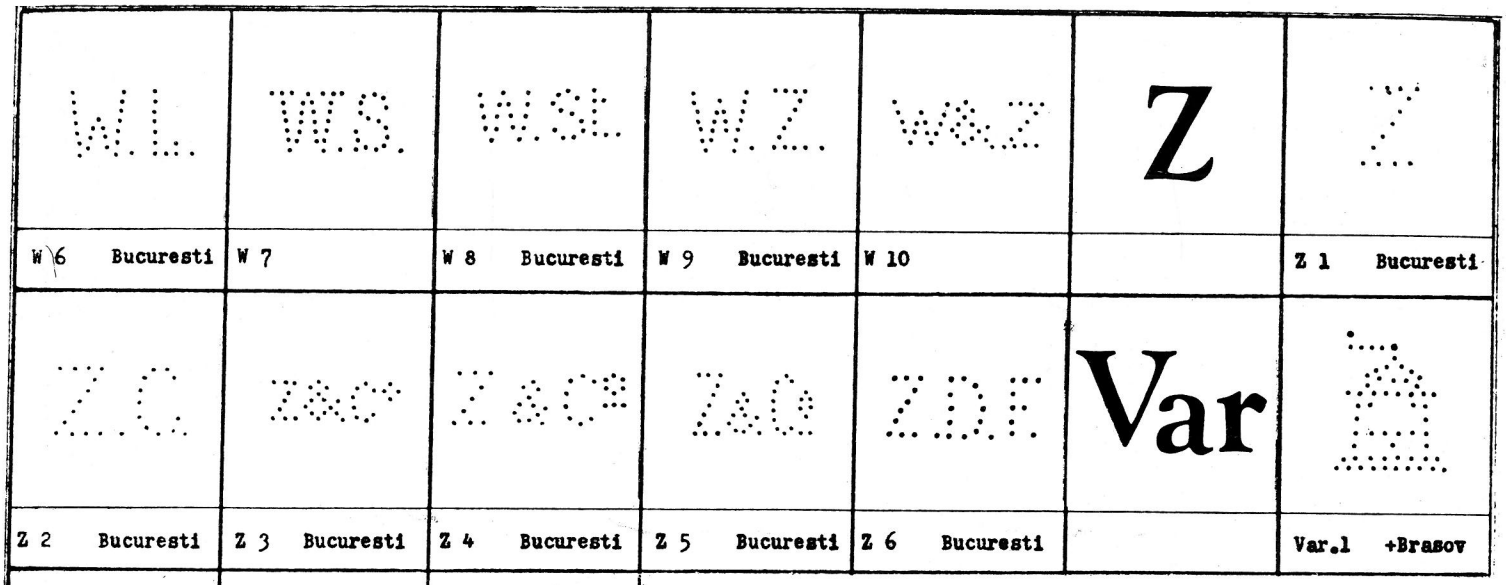
Published in Bucharest, Romania, in 1982, it is in English and Romanian languages and runs 16 pages. The author, Barbu Popescu, has indexed all articles published in the first five years of our publication by classifying them in 14 groups such as: Postal History; Postal Stationery; Essays, Proofs and Reprints; Forgeries; Postal Markings; Local Posts; Foreign Posts in Romania; Romanian Posts in Foreign Countries; Perfins; Philatelic Literature and Reviews, etc.

Chapter 15, a useful "Index of Writers", lists their addresses and gives coded references to the articles written by them. Those who are interested in certain topics can thus directly contact others who have already done some research on those subjects.

Barbu Popescu, himself a devoted researcher, is to be commended for compiling this useful bibliography.

ROMANIAN PERFINS

VOJTECH MAXA
P.O. BOX 50, 170 00 Prague, Czechoslovakia



W 6 Bucuresti	W 7	W 8 Bucuresti	W 9 Bucuresti	W 10		Z 1 Bucuresti
Z 2 Bucuresti	Z 3 Bucuresti	Z 4 Bucuresti	Z 5 Bucuresti	Z 6 Bucuresti		Var.1 +Brasov
Var.2 Constanta	Var.3	Var.4				

The identification of the perfin users and their localities will follow in a future issue. I want to thank Mr. László Erős (Romania), Mr. E.J. Enschede and Mr. Jan C. Prins (The Netherlands) and Mr. Jack Brandt (Canada) for their generous help and I hope that with the cooperation of more Romanian perfin collectors the list of perfins and their identification will be enlarged.

More on the Sighet 1944 Issue.

George Pataki

Francis Konrad's excellent study, "Local Issues of Northern Transylvania, 1944-1945" (The American Philatelist, November 1981 and Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 2/1982), presented the many issues created at the end of World War II, when Northern Transylvania was reunited with Romania and the various local posts were reorganizing.

The second issue described in the above article is the Sighet (in Maramureș region) issue. Because of existing controversy as to whether this issue comprised 7 or 10 stamps, I am here translating the official report made and signed on the day when the issue was made (by overprinting various Hungarian stamps), as published in "Filatelia" of Sept. 1, 1946:

"Official Report No. 46

This day of December 29, 1944: Considering the complete absence of Romanian postage stamps and ever growing requests for the same from the public, the undersigned Călin Teodor, postmaster delegate of the Sighet post office, assisted by Mr. Hingreder Iosif-post office clerk, Miss Kovaci Ghizela- office cashier, Floreta Alexandru-supervisor and Călin Vasile-mailman, have proceeded to overprint the Hungarian postage stamps left in this office by the former Hungarian administration, as follows:

1.	8 f dark green	amount	150
2.	10 f light brown	"	250
3.	12 f bright green	"	250
4.	18 f black	"	100
5.	20 f reddish brown	"	100
6.	30 f red (St. Marg.)	"	230
7.	1 P green (Crown)	"	250

These stamps were overprinted using a special wooden device, made by Mr. Medvecsky Ștefan (townhall clerk), its text reads "POSTA ROMANA" in capital letters, in a circle, the center of which is engraved with the year 1944.

Right after the overprinting, these stamps, except for 20 Red Cross, were delivered to the cashier and the window for franking domestic registered mail as well as registered mail addressed to the territories occupied by the Romanian and Soviet armies; ordinary mail continued to have its payment indicated by the handstamp "Taxa incasata in numerar" (translation: Postage received in cash), made by us out of wood.

The handstamp used to make this overprint has also been applied on this official report, afterwards it was destroyed by burning it.

Dated as above.

Postmaster delegate
Călin Teodor

Assistants
1) Kovacs Ghizela
2) Hingreder Iosif
3) Floreta Alexandru
4) Călin Vasile

P.S. Also overprinted were 10 each of stamps issued for the Red Cross Society of Hungary 30+30 f and 50+50 f, which were not sold at the window and are considered proofs."

This official document indeed bears the above mentioned "POSTA ROMANA 1944" marking as well as the official circular postmark "OFFICIUL P.T.T. SIGHET".

As it can be seen, only seven stamps were officially overprinted and issued, and only 100 complete sets could possibly be assembled because only 100 of the 18 f denomination were overprinted.

The facts as recorded in this official document are supported by personal inter-

views later conducted by Breuer Stefan (a philatelist and government employee) with Călin Teodor and the assistants persent at overprinting. Breuer found out that a set of seven overprinted stamps had been sent to the Postal Directorate in Oradea to be forwarded to the editors of Zumstein (a Swiss published stamp catalogue), who regarded them as official proof of the authenticity of this issue and listed them. Breuer succeeded in obtaining from Calin Teodor a number of overprinted stamps, amongst these the only existing block of 4 of the 18 f stamp (the rest being known only as singles), certified by Călin as genuine.

The overprinting was accomplished with black ink, used at the time by the Sighet post office.

The 1947 edition of the Konrád catalogue lists seven stamps for this issue. In 1959, both Zumstein and the Romanian catalogue (edited by F. Konrád and M. Herscovici) list 10 stamps for this issue, adding to the originally known seven stamps three more: 1 f, 4 f and 50 f.

Around 1956, F. Konrád was introduced to Jacques Wertheimer-Ghica of Bucharest who had some 1 f, 4 f and 50 f overprinted stamps for sale. Konrád examined them carefully and found-to his amazement - that the overprints had been produced by the original wooden device, showing the characteristic break in the first leg of the letter "M" in "ROMANA". Wertheimer-Ghica was already known as a forger, as he was selling covers with the 6 parale, 1862 United Principalities stamps which are known to have never been issued. Nevertheless, the fact that these three new denomination seemed to have been made with the original hand-stamp prompted their listing in the Konrad-Herscovici catalogue as well as in others.

Konrád suspected that these three stamps, not listed in Official Report No. 46 of Dec. 29, 1944, were made before overprinting the other seven values because according to the report, the wooden device was destroyed right after the overprinting was completed.

Other stamps, not mentioned in the official report, have surfaced over the years, such as the 70+70 f Red Cross. Also, obviously forged overprints, without the characteristic break in the first leg of the letter "M" are known to exist.

If we accept the Official Report of Dec. 26, 1944, made on the day of the overprinting, we have to limit the Sighet issue to only seven stamps, meanwhile acknowledging that three other values, unofficially made with the original device, also exist.

There is also a second rationale to support this assumption. While some of the stamps were overprinted in black ink, used at the time by the Sighet post office, others have oily, greenish-black overprints. Why on such a small number of overprinted stamps should there be two kind of overprinting inks? Could it be because they were overprinted on two different occasions, using the two different types of ink? One of them, with the commission in session and the other (before or after the official overprinting) an unofficial one, when the three types (plus a semipostal) not listed in the official document were also created? As seen in the Jay T. Carrigan collection, stamps with black overprint are only those listed in the official document while those with the oily, greenish-black overprints are from the official ist as well as the unlisted ones. Our conclusion is that the stamps with the oily, greenish-black overprints, while having been made with the original wooden device, were unofficialy produced.

The illustrations were made and supplied by Jay T. Carrigan, the stamps were expertized by Francis Konrád.

Stamps listed in the official document.

Stamps not listed in the official document.

REVIEW: **MINKUS CATALOGUE: Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania.**

This three country catalogue, with 242 pages, is available at $9.95 from Minkus Publishing Co., 116 West 32nd St., New York, N.Y. 10001 or any stamp store. The Romanian section consists of 83 pages, with the latest issue listed that of May 4,1981. Romanian specialists should find the "Hungary-Occupations" chapter useful as it contains the "Arad", "Debrecen" (Debreţin) and "Temesvar" (Timişoara) issue in the same volume as all other Romanian issues.

This catalogue is well printed and nicely illustrated. Editor-in-Chief Joe Zollman assured us that the few minor omissions and inaccuracies we have reported to him will be corrected in the next issue.

The catalogue prices the controversial imperforate souvenir sheets (not priced by Scott) but does not list or price the imperforate varieties of some of the stamps issued during the reign of King Carol II (listed and priced in Michel).

The Minkus prices are generally higher than those listed in Scott.

Personal number markings of the telegram-delivering postmen.

Iulian Constantin, Str. Unirii No. 128, 1100 Craiova, Romania

The postal horn-type numeral markings used in Bucharest in the 1895-1915 and 1928-1934 periods have already been well described in previous issues of "Romanian Philatelic Studies" and "Filatelia". Now we are presenting the personal number markings used in Bucharest by the postmen delivering telegrams.

The telegram presented here originated in "Castel Peles" (Peles Castle), the royal residence, and was sent by King Carol II to Virgil Slavescu, in Pia(ta) Bratianu 20, Bucharest. The text of the telegram is "Multzumesc pentru urari - Carol" (I thank you for the best wishes - Carol) and the date is "20/10" (Oct. 20) in 1933. King Carol II was born in Sinaia (where Peles Castle is located) on Oct. 16, 1893, thus this telegram probably is the response to the best wishes sent to his 40th birthday.

It bears a "SPECIALA" (Special) marking in a rhombical frame (with cut corners), 50 x 18 mm. in size, probably because it was sent by the king.

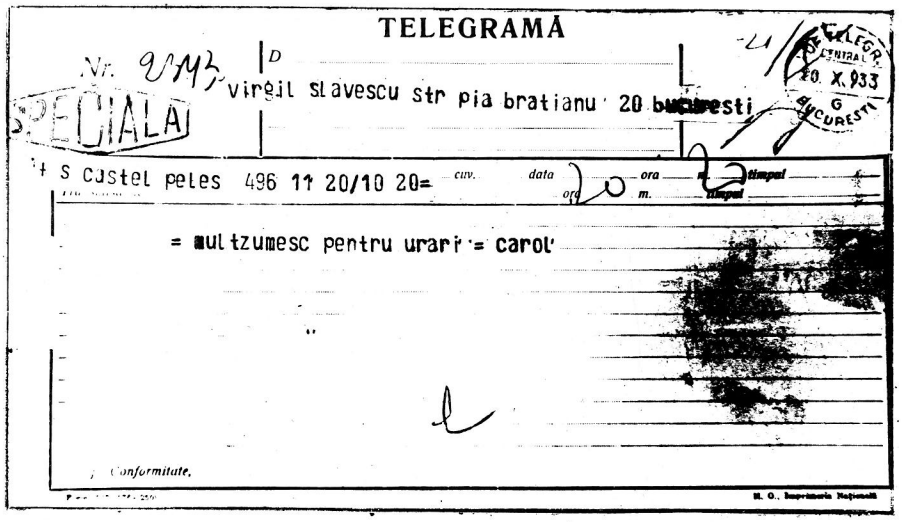
In the upper right corner of the telegram, there is a single circle-type postal marking; in its upper spandrel, it reads "OF. TELEGR. CENTRAL" (Central Telegraph Office), in its lower spandrel is "G. BUCURESTI" and on the center bridge is the date "20.X.933" (Oct. 20, 1933).

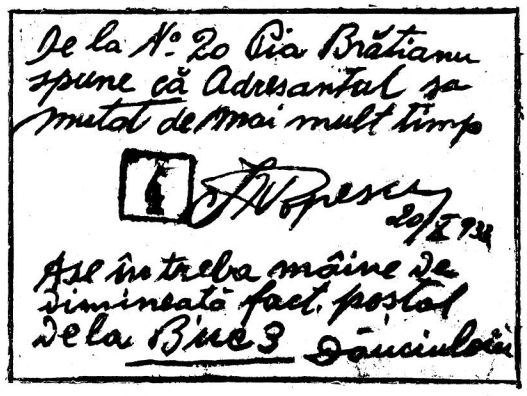
Two rectangular labels, reading "OFICIUL TELEGRAFIC", were used to seal the telegram, which could be opened by only the addressee.

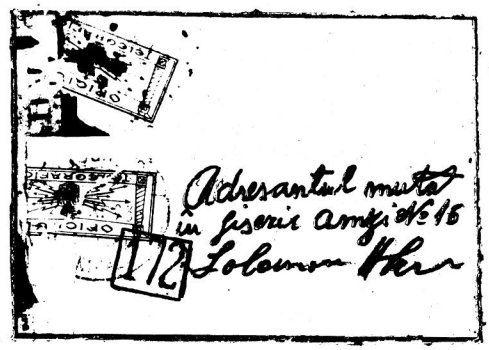
The addressee, Virgil Slavescu, moved and the delivering postman, I. Popescu, wrote in pencil, on the back of the telegram, the following: "De la No. 20 Pia Bratianu spune ca adresantul sa mutat de mai mult timp" (At. No. 20 Bratianu Square, is said that the addressee moved long time ago), signed it, date it: (20 X 933) and applied his personal number marking, "4" in a square 14 x 14 mm. frame. Under this notation, there is another one, also handwritten in pencil, made probably by a postal supervisor: "A se intreba maine de dimineata fact. (orii) postal de la Buc(uresti) 3" (The mailmen of Bucharest 3 should be asked tomorrow morning), and signed it "Danciuloiu".

There is a third handwritten notation, also in pencil: "Adresantul mutat in biseric(a) Amzi(i) No. 16" (The addressee moved to Biserica Amzii No. 16), signed by "Solomon (illegible)" who applied his personal number marking "172", in a 15 x 14 mm. rectangular frame.

We invite researchers who have such delivered telegrams to check them and report on any similar number markings.




De la No 20 Pia Brătianu spune că Adresantul sa mutat de mai mult timp
20/X 933
Ași fi trebuință mâine de dimineață fact. postal de la Buc 3 Dănciuloiu



An extensive collection of Romanian philatelic magazine FILATELIA is available through the editor.

Missing 108 Parale Moldavian Stamp

A 108 Parale stamp of the first issue of Moldavia, with a blue "JASSY" postmark dated "29/10", has been "lost" in the mail, in March 1981, en route from West Germany to the United States.

Any information about its whereabouts will be appreciated by Mr. Fritz Heimbüchler, Bosetti Strasse 9, 8000 Munich 60, West Germany, or the editor.

ROMANIAN PHILATELIC BOOK SALE

Send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the editor for an updated price list of hard-to-find Romanian philatelic books and magazines.

ANNOUNCEMENT

OUR MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND THEIR BULLETIN SUBSCRIPTION FEES ON TIME. DUE TO THE INCREASE IN OUR EXPENSES WE CANNOT SEND FOLLOW UP NOTICES.

MAIL SALES

MAIL BID SALES. No reserves—no floor competition. Bid at your own prices. Our Mail Sales include U.S., U.S. Possessions, BNA, Europe, Gen. Foreign, mint, used, singles, complete sets, covers, proofs, revenues, collections, accumulations, wholesale lots. Write for FREE catalog. AMARK, Dept. A, PO Box 494, Brooklyn, NY 11230.

1944-45 TRANSYLVANIAN LOCALS

Want to buy or trade for varieties, proofs, essays, covers etc. Especially need several Odorheiu overprints and the Satu-Mare fantasy set. Have several "Posta Salajului" overprints to sell or trade. Also interested in Post-WW II locals from other European countries.

Jay T. Carrigan
12000 Fairfax Station Road
Fairfax Station, VA. 22039

For research purposes I seek Romanian railroad cancellations such as:
POSTA AMBULANTA, AMB. No....
TREN..., GARA..., CFR..., etc.
and/or photocopies of the above.
(expenses reimbursed)
HORST SCHERRER
Glashütter Damm 79
2000 Norderstedt, West Germany.

The Enigma of the "Censurat Mărul-Roșu" marking.

Mircea Teleguț, Bul. Eroilor No. 22, apt. 13, 1900 Timișoara, Romania

In the "Indicatorul Localităților din România" (Directory of the Romanian Localities), published in 1974, there are two localities named "Măru Rosu" (Red Apple): one is listed as a village in the Isuratei parish, in Braila county, while another is listed as a village in the Corcova parish, in Mehedinți county. In the "Codul Poștal al Localităților din R.S.R." (Postal Codes of the Localities in R.S.R.) of 1974, we can find the same two localities, one "Măru Roșu" with postal code 6161, in Braila County, and another "Măru Roșu" with postal code 1489, in Mehedinți county.

Despite the similarity in names, however, these localities have nothing in common with that on a linear censor marking, used in 1919, that reads "Censurat Mărul-Roșu" and has beneath it a dotted line where the censor inscribed the date and signed. The length of the marking varies from 48 to 52 mm. and the text is "Censurat Măru-Roșu" or "Censurat Mărul-Roșu" with an extra "1" in "Mărul". The color is usually violet and sometimes red.

Censurat Mărul-Roșu

During the same year, a circular double-framed censor marking (30 mm. in diameter), with the text "CENSURAT MĂRUL-ROȘU ROMÂNIA", was also used.

Covers with any of such markings are quite scarce. An examination of such covers leads us to conclude that all of them were either originated from, addressed to or went through the city of Arad during the second half of 1919 The stamps used on them were either Hungarian or Romanian, the later being of King Carol I type, with or without the "P.T.T.F.F." overprint in a circle (Scott 245-247 and 217-221).

Examples of covers known to the author with linear markings are:

July 16, 1919, from Arad to Craiova;

July 25, 1919, from Seghedin (Szeged, Hungary), via Arad to Lugoj;

Unlegible day and month, 1919, from Mezöhegyes (Hungary) to Pecica (near Arad);

Dec. 27, 1919, from Mezöhegyes to Pecica.

Examples of covers known with round markings are:

Oct. 8, 1919, from Arad to Lipova;

Nov. 7, 1919, from Arad to Arad.

These two types of censor markings resemble similar ones used in Banat, Crisana and Transylvania right after their unificaiton with Romania.

The fact that the majority of the above mentioned covers bear Hungarian stamps of the types used in the newly-annexed territories, suggests that this censorship office operated somewhere there.

Linear "Censurat Măru-Roșu" and "Censurat Mărul-Roșu" markings seem to have been used starting from July 1919, while only in Oct. 1919, the circular "CENSURAT MĂRUL-ROȘU ROMÂNIA" was put in use.

It can be surely stated, based on the above examined covers and, in particular, on the one sent from Arad to Arad, that this censor office operated in Arad.

However, it is still necessary to determine why the "MĂRU ROȘU" code name was used instead of "ARAD", the name of the city where the actual censorship operation took place?

The name "ARAD" was included in such censor markings starting in 1920 and continued in 1921. Also, were other similar code names used in other localities?

Anul I.—No. 1. NUMERUL 20 BANI 15 Martie 1867.

Anunciatorul Mărcilor

JURNAL FILATELIC LUNAR

pentru Colecționari și Comercianți de Mărci

Director, I. ȘARAGA

IASSY.—STRADA LOZONSKI No. 6.

Anul I. No. 2 NUMĂRUL 10 BANI 25 Octombrie 1868.

Filatelia Ro

Jurnal filatelic lunar pentru Colecționari și Come

Apare la 25 a fie-cărei luni

Singurul

Directori Proprietari: THÉODORESCO & C-

ANUNCIURI:

Abonamente Pe an . . . . 1 leu

Pagina . . . . 30 lei
½ " . . . . 15 "
¼ " . . . . 8 "
⅛ " . . . . 4 "

1 colónă . . . .
½ "
¼ "

Les annonces peut être traduites en Roumain, sans augmentation
Les abonnements et les annonces sont payables d'avance, et par
Des agents sérieux sont demandés dans toutes les villes,

Anul I. No. 1 NUMĂRUL 10 BANI 25 Septembre 1898.

FILATELIA ROMÂNĂ

BIBLIOTECA ACADEMIEI ROMÂNE

Jurnal filatelic lunar pentru Colecționari și Comercianți de mărci

Apare la 25 a fie-cărei luni

SINGURUL JURNAL FILATELIC ROMÂN

Directori Proprietari: THÉODORESCO & C-ie Bârlad

ANUNCIURI:

Abonamente: Pe an . . . 1 leŭ

Pagina . . 20 lei
½ " . . 10 "
¼ " . . 6 "
⅛ " . . 3 "

1 colónă . . 10 lei
½ " . . 6 "
¼ " . . 3 "

Micĭ anunciurĭ: Linia 20 bani

Les annonces peut être traduites en Roumain, sans augmentation de prix.
Les abonnements et les annonces sont payables d'avance, et par mandat-poste.
Des agents sérieux sont demandés dans tous tes les villes, remise 2

Romanian Philatelic Periodicals Additions

Sjlviu Dragomir

In addition to "Romanian Philatelic Periodicals" by George Pataki (Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 1/1981) I present here three photographs (portions of the title pages) of some 19th century Romanian philatelic magazines, listed but not illustrated.

"ANUNCIATORUL MĂRCILOR" was described in paragraph 11 and "FILATELIA ROMÂNĂ" (format and printer's type was changed after the first issue) was presented in paragraph 12.

The Censor Markings of the French Occupation of Arad

Mircea Telegut, Bul. Eroilor No. 22, apt. 13, 1900 Timisoara, Romania.

At the end of World War I, after the collapse of the Austrian-Hungarian empire, the provinces of Banat and Crisana had for a while an ambigous situation because the Allied powers delayed the installation of the Romanian administration over these territories. The region was for a couple of months under a French-Serbian military administration. The Allied powers gradually allowed the establishment of the Romanian administration, which at the end of July 1919 was set up in Arad and in Timisoara.

Those events left their marks in philately through the overprinting of some of the Hungarian stamps found in the post offices and warehouses of those territories, creating provisional issues listed by most of the catalogues. Among these, the one named "Occupation Française", which was used in Arad during the French occupation is one of the most interesting.

According to Zumstein catalogue, this issue was not made at the order or approved by the Hungarian postal administration, rather by the Postal Directorate of Arad, stimulated by a group of philatelists. To officialize this issue, a written statement was sent to U.P.U. in Berne, Switzerland. There are many well executed counterfeits.

The issue has 56 denominations, 10 of which are postage due stamps. Blue or red "Occupation francaise" overprints were applied on Hungarian stamps of 1916-18 (Fig. 1).

Fig. 1

Covers or postcards bearing these stamps, actually used in the postal circuit, are extremely scarce despite the large number printed in many denominations. Most of the covers with these stamps bear favor cancels.

It seems that most of these stamps were bought up by philatelists, right after were issued, remaining at the post offices of Arad and its county, to be used on mail, only a very small quantity. During the period, the postal service continued to use Hungarian stamps without any overprint, which they had in their repositories.

The censorship of the mail was done by the French military authorities which administered this territory. In Arad, this was done by the 11th French Colonial Division under the comand of Gen. Ferret, and later of Gen. De Tournadre.

Fig. 2

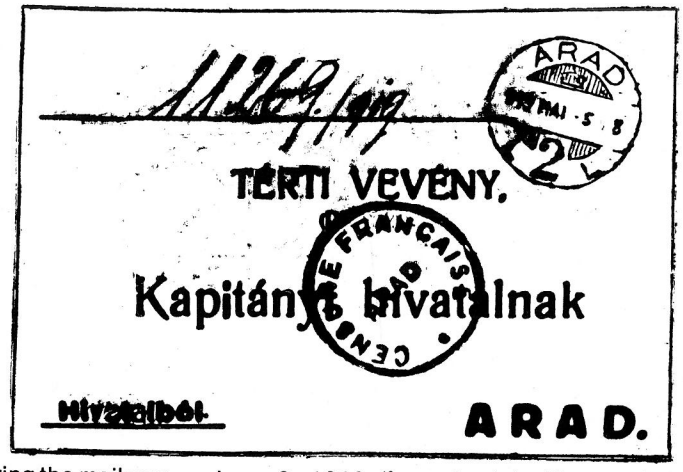


Fig. 3

The operation of censoring the mail was attested by applying a round marking (Fig. 2), about 32-34 mm. in diameter, with two very close circles which in most of the instances are filled with ink thus looking like one, thick circle. The text is: "CENSURE FRANCAISE ARAD" and the color is violet. This censor marking can only be found on mail originating in Arad. I found this marking only on correspondence and printed matter mailed in May and June 1919, with the following dates: May 5, 1919 (Fig. 3), May 25, 1919 (from Arad to Caransebeş), May 31, 1919, and June 9, 1919 (from Arad to Vermes in Caraş-Severin county).

Another censor marking (Fig. 4) is bilingual: Hungarian and French. It reads: "Forgalom szünet miatt nem tovabbittatott; Censuré" (Not forwarded during interruption of traffic, Censored). It was applied in red ink.

The French occupation of Arad ceased in July 1919 when Mareshal Franchet d'Esperay, the comandant of the French armies in Orient, came personally to Arad to hand over the city to the Romanian Administration.

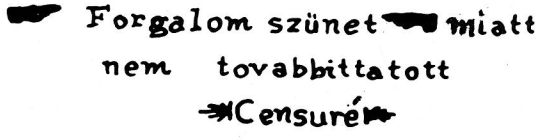


Fig. 4

A Gem of Romanian Philately

This piece with three 40 Parale stamps of the second issue of Moldavia, on yellowish-white paper, belongs to the Fritz Heimbüchler (of Munich, West Germany) collection. These are obliterated with the very scarce "FRANCO" postal marking, written in the Cyrillic lettering, which was used from 1852 (thus dating back to prestamp period) until 1858.

The largest multiple usage known on cover is four copies. This fragment with three such stamps is the second largest such group of stamps. The clear imprint of the very desirable "FRANCO" marking makes this piece a real gem of Romanian philately.

COMMENTS on published articles can be sent directly to the authors. **INQUIRIES** regarding the **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB** or the **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES** can be sent to the editor.

ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBILULUI (Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the **HOHE RINNE** local posts, is available from the **EDITOR** for $11.00.

Specializing in ROMANIA
Large & diversified stock
WANT LISTS WELCOMED
Other countries available
E. SECHY
P. O. BOX 64462
LOS ANGELES, Cal. 90064

MILITARY CENSOR MARKINGS

SILVIU DRAGOMIR, Str. Biserica Popa Chitu No. 17, 70268 Bucharest, Romania.

To facilitate the study of special markings, I have developed a clasification system which is described here as it applies to the subject of this article. The "Z-302.00.00" type code numbers contain a letter and several numerals with the following meanings:

"Z" is the symbol for this general topic. It refers to markings used by military censors and military bureaus. The letter "Z" was chosen because it was assigned and because it is suggestive of "Zensur" (German for censor).

"302" denotes a particular group. The first digit (3) was assigned to the World War I period when this material was produced. The other two digits indicate specific categories of markings. For example, "02" was assigned to military censor bureaus.

The third group of numbers, starting with "01", is for differentiation between the various markings that belong to the same group, e.g. used in the same locality or by the same military unit, having the same shape or design, etc.

The fourth group of numbers (and if necessary, a fifth group), also starting with "01", is used to mark detailed differences of markings that otherwise belong to the same group and were used in the same locality or by the same military unit, etc.

The use of this classification system can be seen in the accompanying illustrations.

Z-302.01.

Z-302.02.01.

Z-302.02.02.

Z-302.02.03.

Z-302.02.04.

Z-302.02.05.

Z-302.02.06.

Z-302.02.07.

"Z-302" - Military Censor Bureaus

The following markings (with dates of use) which were applied on censored mail, mostly at their departure points but sometimes also at their arrival destination, have been identified so far:

Circular "CENZURA MILITARA POSTALA" markings

Z-302.01. CENZURA MILITARA POSTALA (July 13, 1918-Sept. 23, 1918)

Circular "BIUROUL DE CENSURA MILITARA/place of use" markings

Z-302.02.01. BIUROUL DE CENZURA MILITARA/POSTA CENTRALA (Feb. 22, 1918 - Sept. 3, 1918)

Z-302.02.02. BIUROUL DE CENSURA MILITARA/BUCURESTI SCRISORI (June 19, 1917 - Dec. 13, 1918)

Z-302.02.03. BIUROUL DE CENSURA MILITARA/BACAU (Sept. 3, 1916 Oct. 19, 1916)

Z-302.02.04. BIUROUL DE CENSURA MILITARA/BARLAD (Sept. 21, 1916)

Z-302.02.05. BIUROUL DE CENSURA MILITARA/CAMPULUNG (Nov. 28. 1916)

Z-302.02.06. BIUROUL DE CENSURA MILITARA/DOROHOI (Oct. 22, 1916)

Z-302.02.07. BIUROUL DE CENSURA MILITARA/FALTICENI (May 29, 1918 - Sept. 15, 1918)

Z-302.02.08. BIUROUL DE CENSURA MILITARA/GALATI (June 16, 1918 - Sept. 12, 1919)

Z-302.02.09. BIUROUL DE CENSURA MILITARA/IASI (Nov. 14, 1917 - July 16, 1919)

Z-302.02.10. BIUROUL DE CENSURA MILITARA/PIATRA N. (Oct. 7, 1916 - Nov. 14, 1918)

Z-302.02.11. BIUROUL DE CENSURA MILITARA/PLOESTI (Oct. 24, 1919)

Z-302.02.12. BIUROUL DE CENSURA MILITARA/ROMAN (July 17, 1917)

Z-302.02.13. BIUROUL DE CENSURA MILITARA/SLATINA (Oct. 4, 1920)

Z-302.02.14. BIUROUL DE CENSURA MILITARA/TECUCI (June 2, 1917 - Oct. 23, 1918)

Z-302.02.15. BIUROUL DE CENSURA MILITARA/T. MAGURELE (Sept. 11, 1916)

Circular "BIUROUL DE CENZURA/place of use" markings

Z-302.03 BIUROUL DE CENZURA/DELTA DUNARII (Dec. 8, 1918)

Circular "CENSURA MILITARA BUCURESTI" seal

Z-302.04. CENSURA MILITARA/BUCURESTI/CM (monogram) (March 21, 1919 - Dec. 29, 1919)

Large rectangular "CENZURAT/CENZURA MILITARA/place of use" markings

Z-302.05.01. CENZURAT/CENZURA MILITARA/BUCURESTI POSTA C-la (Sept. 28, 1916 - Sept. 1, 1920)

Z302.05.02. CENZURAT/CENZURA MILITARA/a JUDETULUI ARGES (May 25, 1919)

Z-302.05.03. CENZURAT/CENZURA MILITARA/a JUDET. BACAU (May 10, 1918)

Z-302.05.04. CENZURAT/CENZURA MILITARA/a JUDETULUI BOTOSANI (Sept. 28, 1917)

Z-302.05.05. CENZURAT/CENZURA MILITARA/a JUDETULUI BRAILA (Nov. 3, 1916)

Z-302.05.06. CENZURAT/CENZURA MILITARA/A JUDET. COVURLUI (Oct. 29, 1916 Dec. 31, 1918)

Z-302.05.07. CENZURAT/CENZURA MILITARA/a JUDETULUI IASI (Dec. 24, 1916 - Feb. 21, 1918)

Z-302.05.08. CENZURAT/CENZURA MILITARA/a JUDET. VASLUI (May 21, 1917 - June 30, 1918)

Small rectangular "CENZURAT/CENZURA MILITARA/place of use/Data.." markings

Z-302.06.01.01 CENZURAT/CENZURA MILITARA/BUCURESTI CENTRAL SCRISORI/Data.. (Aug. 3, 1916 - Sept. 26, 1916)

Z-302.06.01.02 idem with broken frame (1916)

Z-302.06.02. CENZURAT/CENZURA MILITARA/BUCURESTI TELEGRAF CENTRAL/Data.. (Sept. 3, 1916)

Z-302.06.10. CENZURAT/Biuroul de cenzura/BUCURESTI MESAGERII/Data.. (Feb. 27, 1919)

Z-302.06.50. CENZURAT/Cenzura militara a jud. BACAU/Data.. (Oct. 8, 1916 - Oct. 18, 1918)

Z-302.06.51. CENZURAT/Cenzura militara a jud. ILFOV/Data.. (Oct. 10, 1918)

Z-302.06.52. CENZURAT/Cenzura militara a jud. NEAMTU/Data.. (Sept. 16, 1916 - Oct. 3, 1916)

Z-302.06.53. CENZURAT/Cenzura militara a jud. ROMAN/Data.. (May 22, 1917)

Other linear "CENZURAT" markings

Z-302.07.01 ARMATA/4/CENZURAT (Feb. 22, 1918)

Z-302.07.10. DIVIZIA (blank space)/CENZURAT (Sept. 6, 1917)

Z-302.07.20. CENZURAT/DIV - 3A (Oct. 4, 1917)

Z-302.07.30. CENZURAT/D-13 (Jan. 6, 1918 - Feb. 21, 1918)

Z-302.02.08.

Z-302.02.09.

Z-302.02.10.

Z-302.02.11.

Z-302.02.12.

Z-302.02.13.

Z-302.02.14.

Z-302.02.15.

Z-302.03

Z-302.04.

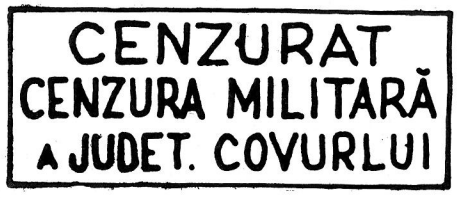
Z-302.05.01.

Z302.05.02.

Z-302.05.03.

Z-302.05.04.

Z-302.05.05.



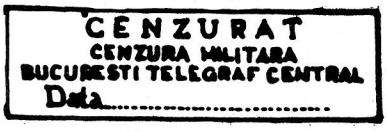
Z-302.05.06.

Z-302.05.07.

Z-302.05.08.

Z-302.06.01.01

Z-302.06.01.02



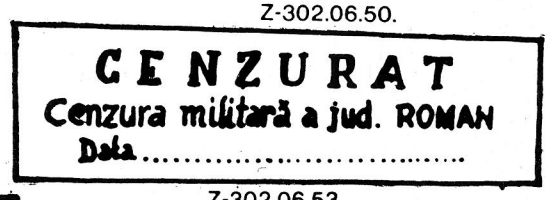
Z-302.06.02.

Z-302.06.10.

Z-302.06.50.

Z-302.06.51.

Z-302.06.52.



Z-302.06.53.

Z-302.07.01.

Z-302.07.10.

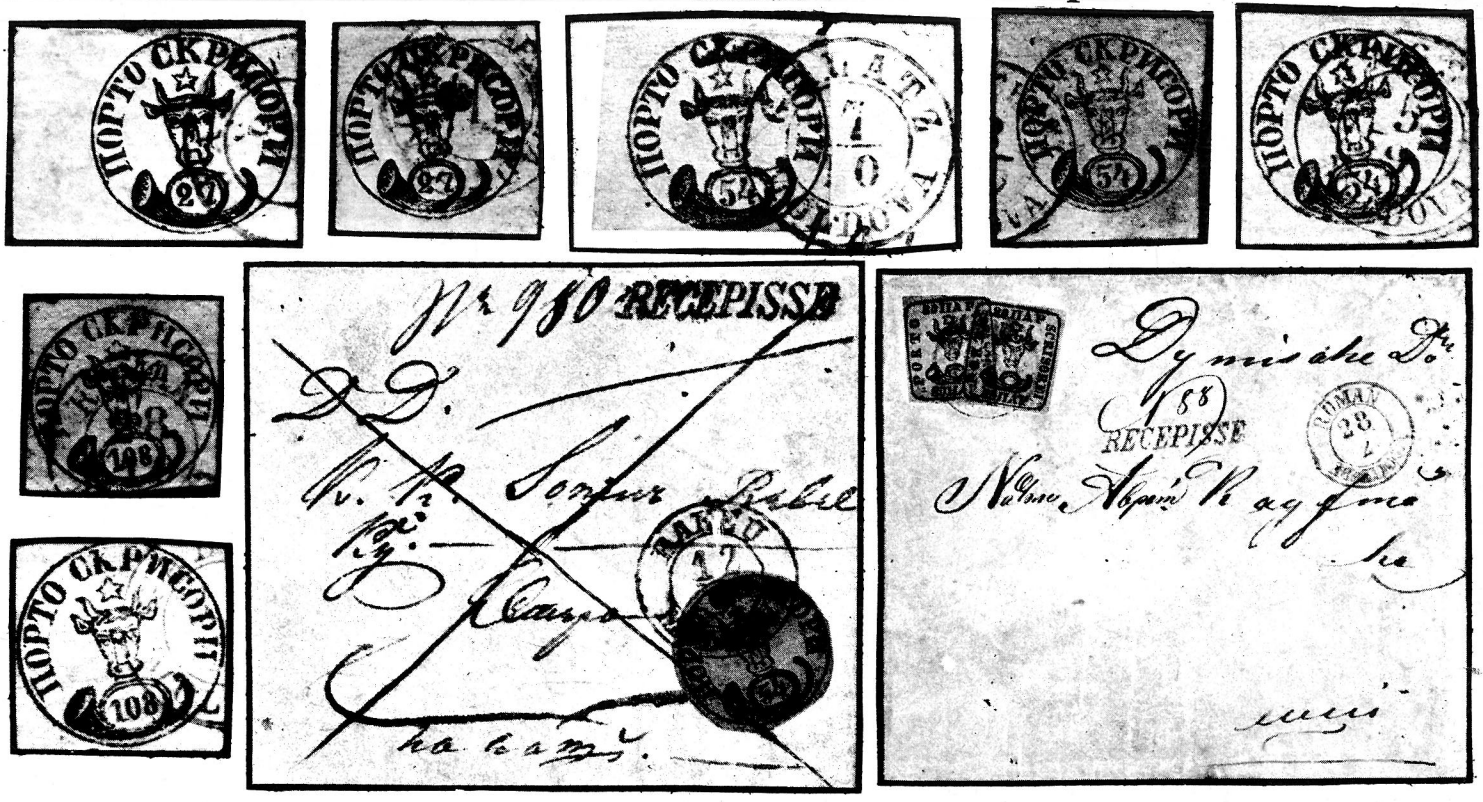
Z-302.07.20.

Z-302.07.30

WE STILL NEED . . . ROMANIA
Fair prices paid for old letters, better singles, sets, blocks, accumulations and advanced collections.
Write, call or send us for examination with your asking price or our offer.
JOVAN JOVANOVICH,
Tel. (212) 446-1156, Box 243, Gracie Sta., New York, NY 10028.

We hold an extensive and varied stock of Romanian stamps and postal history. Write to us today for our free prices illustrated listings. We would be pleased to hear from you. **LONDON & NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL STAMP CO. Ltd.** P.O. Box 72, Harrow, Middlesex, HAI3LG Great Britain.

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE **Peter Rapp** Switzerland April 19 -24. 1986



More on "OPRIT A SE CENZURA" Markings

Silviu Dragonmir, Str. Biserica Popa Chitu No. 17, 70268 Bucharest, Romania

My short note on the "OPRIT A SE CENZURA" marking, published in Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 1/ 1981 (Curious Censor Markings), brought many comments regarding its significance and intended use. Two totally contrary opinions were formulated: one claims that this marking means "Stopped (or retained) to be censored"; the other, that it signifies "Prohibited to censor".

I present here a few such markings found on various pieces of mail, all used during World War II (1941-1945) and will let the reader form this own interpretation:

Figure 1. In blue, mailed by "Legation de Suisse en Roumanie" (Swiss Legation in Romania), Bucharest.

Figure 2. In red, mailed from Bucharest to Vice-Consul Albou in Prague, Czechoslovakia;

Figure 3. In blue, mailed to Broadcasting Company, Bucharest;

idem. In black, on a bank account report to "Semanatoarea" factory;

Figure 4. In black, mailed by the "Telephone Company" with its own round "CONTROLAT" (Controlled, verified) marking;

Figure 5. In black, same as the above;

idem. In black, sent to the First President of the Supreme Court of Appeals, Bucharest;

Figure 6. In red, sent from Nadiac by an attorney (via Arad) to another lawyer in Bucharest.

Both interpretations of the meaning of the "OPRIT A SE CENZURA" markings have good arguments pro and con. We invite researchers with reliable information on this matter to come forward and settle the problem.

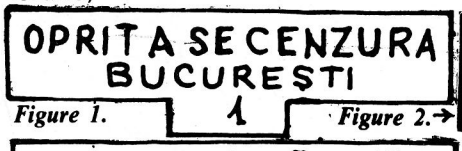


Figure 1.

Figure 2.

Figure 3.

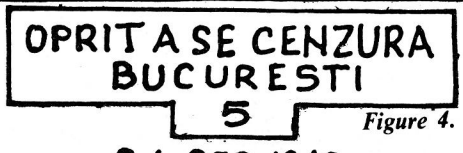


Figure 4.

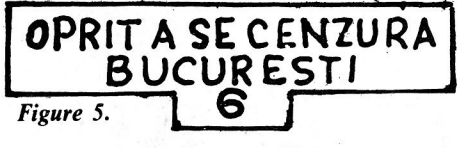


Figure 5.

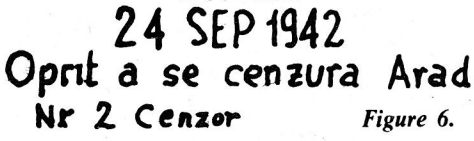


Figure 6.

EDITOR'S NOTE: I recently examined a cover with an "OPRIT A SE CENZURA" marking, similar to the one presented above on Fig. 2. This cover, mailed on Oct. 17, 1945 from CONSTANTA, displays a BUCURESTI transit marking dated Nov. 16, 1945 and a round undated Russian censor marking as well as a GENEVE arrival marking dated Nov. 29, 1945. Having been sent by an individual to "Comité Internationale de la Croix Rouge" (International Committee of Red Cross) in Switzerland, it probably contained a message or inquiries regarding a P.O.W. or a displaced person.

The 30-day difference between the CONSTANTA departure marking and the BUCURESTI transit marking indicate that it was "retained" somewhere. The reason was very probably that it might be censored. Therefore, this cover presents circumstantial evidence that "OPRIT A SE CENZURA" means "retained to be censored". The presence of a Russian censor marking certainly in no way weakens this hypothesis, albeit the Russians certainly had the power to censor the letter even if the "OPRIT A SE CENZURA" marking did mean "prohibited to censor".

To our mind, the meaning of the "OPRIT A SE CENZURA" has still not been positively clarified and we invite our readers to give us any further opinions or evidence to support or debunk the already mentioned theories.

Typesetting by: ANDYNE COMPUTERIZED TYPESETTING SERVICE, 118-02 Jamaica Ave., Richmond Hill, N.Y. 11418